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# NI)F

## Saddam and UN ammer out deal

ın Baghdad

7.33

SADDAM Hussein can stay. That appears to be the deal that was cobbled together in Baghdad between Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, and the Iraqi president yesterday. UN inspectors will go on banging on the doors of presidential palaces at midnight if they wish and UN weapons inspectors will go on watching Iraq's factories and military sites through automatic cameras. But UN sanctions can end fied that it has full compliance with inspections and that no further biological or chemical weapons are being made. · · ·

The United States Secretary whom UN officials fear has delent Saddam, is likely to be enraged by the type of agreement emerging here last night. For she - and many politicians on Capitol Hill nave always defined UN Security Council resolution 687 as a means of destroying the Iraqi president as well as ridding open of chemical, biological and islandear weapons. Because of its

eferences to human rights, the Americans have argued, the UN's harsh economic sanctions can only end when President Saddam goes.

But the deal which Mr Anhan appears to have come up with seems to imply that sanctions would end once the problem of weapons of mass destruction is dealt with. This a very different interpretation om that of Mrs Albright. In other words, she and Presilent Bill Clinton will no longer e able to maintain sanctions as a method of ridding themselves of President Saddam.

The UN spokesman, Fred .Eckhard, arrived to tell us Mr Annan was "on the verge of a reakthrough" to end the Iraqi risis after three hours of talks with resident Saddam. Mr Eckrard could have been standing bove New York's East River. leciding the future of war or eace; which, in a sense, he was.

For if you believed what Mr uman's spokesman was telling s - and how the Americans aust have been driven to disaction as they watched him ren the Iraqi leader had done

a deal which will force all the President's soldiers and all the President's men to march back down the hill again, pack up their Stealths and send a large part of their fleet out of the Gulf.

So what was the deal? Mr Annan was meeting again last night with the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, to sort out one final detail. In the grim hallways of the Republican Palace in south Baghdad the two men discussed what has come to be called the "time element": exactly when UN sanctions will be lifted. When the when the organisation is satis- arms inspectors complete their work? Or with the downfall of President Saddam (the American version)? Mr Annan seems to have won agreement on the first - which means, if the Unitof State Madeleine Albright, ed States agrees, that the inspectors will be given access to veloped a personal obsession the large pseudo-Habsburg

The palace sites may be visited by the inspectors with other foreign officials present. Furthermore, President Saddam is known to have complained to at least one foreign minister that cameras inside his palaces could be used to watch his meetings and learn of his political decisions; there would have to be rules to prevent this intrusion into the "sovereign" affairs of Iraq.

But is this really the great "breakthrough" that Mr Eckhard promises us? In one offhand remark to a journalist, he said that Mr Annan would have to "sell" his deal to the Security Council - which suggests that it is far from being cut-anddried. If the Americans accept the new system of presidential site inspections, are they going to be able to represent their massive military escalation in the Gulf as a political victory especially when it becomes clear that Saddam has acceded to the UN inspectors in return for his own continued rule?

Last night, threateningly, Mrs Albright responded to news of Mr Annan's negotiations: "It is possible that he will come with something we don't like, in which case we will pursue our national interest."

Under the plan which Mr Annan appears to be defining, the UN would recognise different categories of suspected

Reports, pages 10 and 11

#### Glass act: Linda turns Paul into an art revival



The fab eight: an image created by Linda McCartney and Brian Clarke using stained glass photography and called 'Eight Pauls'

#### Exclusive

By David Lister Arts News Editor

LINDA McCartney is helping to spearhead a revival of an art form that bas been dormant for more than 100 years - stained-glass photography.

Working with her friend, the artist Brian Clarke, she has put on an exhibition of stained-glass photog-

century Cistercian abbey at Romont, high in the Swiss Alps. Unsurprisingly, the art world has failed to pick up on

the exhibition. They have been secretly working for three years on teviving the technique, which was last in vogue in the 1880s, and which Clarke has experimented with once before. They have now produced a number of stainedwell as other celebrities, friends, flowers and urban landscapes. The exhibition is likely to move to

London or New York later this year. The pair have also donated stainedglass photography for windows at the Hammersmith Hospital and Rye Memorial Hospital.

Through a new process that they

inks, the colour comes from using ground glass mixed with iron oxide that is then fired in a kiln at 1,200C. The surface of the glass melts, the ground glass in the pigment melts and the two fuse.

The pair kept the project secret for three years, says Clarke, "as we did not want what is a very difficult have invented, Linda McCartney's technique to be plagiarised before the of this form intrigue me."

raphy in what must be the most reclu- glass photographs, including a set of photographs are silk-screened on to opening of the Romont exhibition. All are known techniques, but nobody has ever put them together like this before.

Linda McCartney said yesterday: "Having enjoyed collaborating with Brian for many years on various projects. I'm very excited about this opportunity to show our latest work. As a photographer, the possibilities

## Windfall tax plan to pay for bigger back-to-work scheme

Economics Editor

The Government is considering extending its New Deal for the long-term unemployed to anybody under the age of 50 who has been out of a job for more than six months. A sharp dip in the number of young people out of work means that older people can be included in the project, a move which could come as early as next month's Budget. Andrew Smith, the em-

ployment minister, said: "We are considering whether it would be possible to broaden the general approach." And David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the Chancellor had indicated that funds from

the windfall tax might be available to fund an extension of the initiative.

Pilot schemes for the New Deal for young people are under way before the national programme begins in April, while in June a separate scheme for older long-term unemployed workers will begin. But the number of young people qualifying for the scheme is less than half the figure expected when the plans were first drawn up. There are now 118,000 16- to 24-year-olds who are eligible, compared to 250,000 a year ago.

The fact that unemployment has fallen so rapidly since the election has therefore created the leeway for an extension of the New Deal to essentially all of Britain's long-term unem-

ployed. It will be funded over and fostering entrepreneurship, four years by the £5.2bn windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

Mr Blunkett and Mr Smith were speaking after the Jobs Summit hosted by Britain yesterday for ministers from the other six leading industrial nations and Russia. The ministers, meeting in London, agreed a set of principles for ensuring high levels of employment and high social standards, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said after the conference: "Unemployment for some, inequality and low pay for others, may seem to be a feature of the global economy. In all our countries, the challenge

is greater cohesion." The first three of the seven principles, sound macroeconomic policy, flexible markets could have been drawn up by the last government. But the rest had a distinctly New Labour

flavour, emphasising education, tax and benefit reform and equal opportunities. The British delegation was pleased by the consensus at the summit, as similar events in the past have been scarred by a clash of philosophies. Mr Brown also emphasised

the need for improved childcare, on which The Independent is campaigning for more Government help for working mothers.

On Wednesday Mr Blunkett will launch a Green Paper to consult on the Government's proposals for education and training throughout people's working lives.

Comment, page 16

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## Mandy gives birth to Baby Dome



eter Mandelson: is his elight premature?

With as much pride in his voice as any father announcing the arrival of a beloved offspring, Peter Mandelson made his very own birth announcement yesterday: the arrival of Baby

By Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

Dome. The Minister for the Millennium Dome took his archcritics by surprise when he said a second, smaller dome is to be built alongside the Mother struction, to house a 6,000seat auditorium. Junior will be used for shows featuring everything from steel bands to church choirs. Mr Mandelson revealed the plans when he appeared on Breakfast with Frost as part of efforts to win Britain round to the idea of the Dome, before details of the Millennium Experience interior are unveiled tomorrow by the Prime

Minister. Beneath the Teflon-

Dome, currently under con- on London's Greenwich peninsula there will be nine "zones". including one for a new game, surfball, a mind zone, with a virtual brain and a zone featuring a 320ft human figure.

There will be all-day spectacular shows in the piazza in the centre of the Dome, and if that leaves guests tired, they can try the rest zone, which has a dream-sequence ride, with visitors lying on beds.

to the Tories to stop knocking the Dome because it might

Mr Mandelson may have coated roof of the main Dome thought "baby dome" would ap-

peal to sceptics like Lord Hattersley, former Labour deputy leader, who condemned the Dome as a waste of money. After the Millennium Experience ends, the baby dome is likely to compete with the London Arena, on the other side of the Thames. It was also disclosed that at a private meeting last week Mr Mandelson appealed

put off sponsors. But it had no

effect on the Tory culture

spokesman, Francis Maude, who accused Mr Mandelson of fibbing to keep the Tories quiet. Clearly Mr Maude will have to take a term in the "rest

Dome details, page 7



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, TIME OFF P14 AND P26 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, THE EYE • FULL CONTENTS, P2

## Republicans play the waiting game

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

Multi-party talks reconvene at Stormont today in the absence of Sinn Fein, with republicans refusing to confirm they will go back to the table when their suspension expires on 9 May.

With the peace process going through a particularly uncertain phase. the British and Irish governments will be seeking to use the period of their absence to make arrangements for a last-minute dash for agreement during April. The general view is that only limited progress can be made before the two governments spirit the parties away to a remote location - Finland and Iceland have been mentioned - for intensive eleventh-hour negotiations.

In the meantime Sinn Fein, though excluded from the talks, has succeeded in maintaining itself as the centre process in the coming weeks. of attention. At the moment the issue is whether Tony Blair will agree to Sinn Fein's request for a meeting during their term of suspension. Mr Blair has

Such a meeting would be frowned on by Unionists, but might help to reassure republican grassroots, which are showing distinct signs of disillusionment with the peace process. While there is no evidence of a popular desire for a return to war, many republicans are clearly disgruntled with the exclusion of Sinn Fein and the fact that the talks as yet show little sign of pro-

ducing something to their liking. While Sinn Fein leaders hinted at the weekend that boycotting the talks IRA. The motivation for the murder could not be ruled out, especially if Mr Blair refused a meeting, it seems un-tarian."

likely that a republican leadership which has expended so much political capital on getting into talks should voluntarily turn its back on them.

But while there is probably an element of brinkmanship in the republican position, it is none the less the case that their grassroots have lost a fair amount of faith in the talks. It also makes sense tactically for the republicans to reserve their position for the moment, since the process is in a particularly unpredictable phase.

Groups outside the process such as the republican Continuity army council, which is suspected of wrecking much of the Co Down town of Moira with a bomb on Friday night, and the Loyalist Volunteer Force, may well step up their violence as the talks process nears its end. Such acts of violence might well affect the course of the

Mitchel McLaughlin of Sinn Fein said yesterday: "We are in some difficulty in convincing people that there is any benefit at all in returning in those circumstances, because the same specious grounds could be used to eject us once again. It could happen again, on the basis of events on the grounds over which we have no direct responsibility or control."

The funeral took place yesterday of Kevin Conway, the 30-year-old Catholic father of four who was shot at Aghalee in Co Antrim.

Security sources say they believe republicans were responsible but have refrained from pointing the finger at the was said to be "criminal rather than sec-



In good hands: Alexander Bladen and Jared Pugh in a massage class at Handsworth College, Birmingham, which aims to teach health workers techniques to show parents, so they can ease health problems in their babies Photograph: News Team

THE EYE

Frank Finlay meets Deborah Ross and gets a word in (just)

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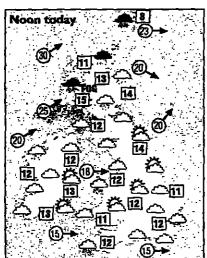
THE EYE

Four of the best: Rosa Mannion in the ENO's Tales of Hoffman

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#### **FORECAST**



Today's forecast

Most of England and Wales will be cloudy, with light rain or drizzle spreading southwards but it will be mild. Rain will clear from the Midfands, the north-east and East Anglia and those areas will brighten up with a little sunshine possible. Scotland and Northern beland will be windy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle and patches of hill fog, mostly in the west. It will be mild, though, especially in the east where it will

Outlook for the next few days a The mild weather will set in for a lew days. Tuesday and Wednesday will be windy across Scotland and Northern freland with some more drizzle, but that will become confined to the far north-west, with some sunshine elsewhere on Wednesday. However, on Thursday more rain will move in from the north-west, heralding colder weather at the weekend. England and Wates will be dry until at least Friday but with an increasing threat of overnight log in the south.

Atlantic chart, noon today Air quality London S England Wales

**High tides** 23·15 6.1 20·51 8.1 16:27 11:2 15:43 7.5 22:06 2.8 21:25 3.7 5.8 7.9 10.7 7.3 2.9 Glasgow Landon

INDEPENDENT Weatherline For the talest forecasts that 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office: Calls charged at 50p per rism at all times (inc. VAT).

Out and about with AA Roadwatch Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association: Calls charged at 50p per

MICHAEL **HANLON** WEATHER

WISE

IF YOU are planning a weekend trip to Nyiregyhaza in Hungary, or perhaps to Bamako in Mali, or maybe to Bahias De Huatulco in Mexipack, help is at hand.

other towns and cities all over Michigan's WeatherNet site on decimal point was missing here. the World Wide Web (http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/).

which are always at least a day out of date and usually only covtemperature, precipitation and a brief five-day forecast. (For Nyiregyhaza, a warm sweater ic associated with the current El

**CONTENTS** 

Foreign

Obituaries

and gloves would be in order, for Bamako, take some sunscreen and a hat - it is due to hit 38C over the weekend. Bahias De Huatulco should be warm and sunny))

The Weather Underground sites are comprehensive - details are sometimes not available from some of the more remote America, and from war zones, but for the holidaymaker or business traveller this is an invaluable resource. It isn't always week, keen to find out how the Incredibly detailed weather windswept inhabitants of Vestinformation is available for mannaeyjar, Iceland, were farthey would be basking in an un-

There is plenty to keep weather enthusiasts happy too Rather than relying on on the main WeatherNet site, agency weather report tables the best weather resource I have and forecasts in the papers, yet found on the Net. There is a link to a beautiful colour map of the world showing current er capital cities. WeatherNet's sea temperatures, that would link to the Weather Under- make a nice picture if you have ground service gives details of a decent colour printer on which to reproduce it. The warm waters of the east Pacif-

18-20

The Tabloid

24, The Eye 10

The Eye !! & 12

Business

6 TV & radio

Crosswords

Law Shares Sport

ing red among the oranges, yellows and blues. The origin of weather names and terms is explained, including a full catalogue of all the tropical storms and their names for the last two decades. So you discover that while the hurricanes that plague the eastern seaboard of the parts of Africa and South United States have good wholesome American names (Brett. Wayne, Wilma, Marilyn and Bonnie), the Australian tropical storms read like the cast list co, and don't know what to 100 per cent accurate. Last of Neighbours (Kirrily, Ned, Vivienne, Willy and Bessie). There are also links to the hundreds of on-line camera these places and thousands of ing, I was surprised to see that sites all over the world, so if you don't trust the forecast, then the world at the University of likely 21C. I think perhaps a you can always see for yourself what the sky is up to. Skiers are well catered for - although the almost ridiculously detailed information and forecasts only apply to American and Canadian resorts. For European ski information on the Web try the America On-Line site at http://members.aol.com/Hildrethjr/skiing/world.html, though be prepared to weigh through a lot of PR puff and travelogue photos to get to the

Nino can be clearly seen glow-



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الماذا من الاصل

# ITV gives new docu-soap prime billing

Media Correspondent

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THE TAKEOVER of television by documentary soaps passed a key marker this weekend when ITV announced that it was moving its long-running soap The Bill to make way for a new

fly-on-the wall series.

Airline, a documentary which follows the passengers and crew of Britannia Airways flights at the height of the holiday season, will start on March 6 at 8pm on ITV. It has been put in the peak time slot which inherits Coronation Street's audience. The commercial network rarely puts an unknown new programme in BBC's "docu-soap" makers such a slot and has never previously moved The Bill

ITV has already poached Grant Mansfield, former managing editor of network features begin airing Premier Passions. at the BBC who commissioned the BBC's Airport and a host of other documentaries and ITV's controller of programmes has said popular factual programmes will be used to lift the channel's ratings.

Joe Houlihan, series producer of the Airline, was detimeslot reflects ITV's commitment to promote factual programmes. It certainly makes me feel they are going to give



as the next cult programme

it as much support as they can." ITV is catching up with the who in the last few weeks started airing series about Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Longleat and Tesco. This week the BBC will about Middlesbrough football club and a series about GPs, but a backlash against the genre has

started inside the corporation. Two weeks ago BBC 1's controller, Peter Šalmon, told a meeting of independent production companies that he didn't want to see any more lighted at ITV's decision: "This straightforward 'soap-docs' proposals. "It was pointed out at the meeting that there was a danger of viewer fatigue," said a spokesman for the BBC. "Par-

licularly if the programmes become more and more imitative."

Where once the fly-on-thewall genre was a mainstay of BBC 2 and Channel 4, and tackled more highbrow subjects like The House, which studied the Royal Opera House, concerns are growing that they are a cheap form of popular TV.

Paul Watson, who made the ground-breaking fly-on-thewall, The Family, in 1974, hit out at the new docu-soaps last week. "There is no analysis, no insight, no unexpected side to the story, no light shed," he said. "The recent programmes put out by both the BBC and ITV on quarrelling neighbours were truly wretched. Their only function seems to have been to turn the rest of us into Peeping

Television executives are planning and marketing their soap-does like old-fashioned soaps with actors. ITV flew three of the 'stars' of Airline to Spain for a press launch last week, giving tabloid show business reporters access to them for background interviews in case they become as big as Maureen Rees, the star of Driving School. Prime candidate for fame in Airline is certain to be BJ Aldridge, a camp cabin manager with a

## Move to curb use of CCTV footage

By Paul McCann

THE GOVERNMENT plans to ban television programmes and video makers from using in a new Bill to regulate the prifootage from security cameras vate security industries which as entertainment.

Home Office Minister Alun close-circuit cameras in public places if they think they are used for intrusive TV programmes rather than catching criminals. Several television shows have evolved from the increased and emergency services videos.

More intrusive still are cheap-

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of car crashes and street disorders. The ban will be included the Home Office is planning. There are already restric-

to-produce videos that use com-

pilations of voyeuristic footage

Michael said the Government tions on closed-circuit cameras is worried the public will turn which are funded by the Home against the proliferation of Office. Mr Michael said he intended extending these regulations to cover all CCTV video pictures. This will include emergency service closed-circuit videos as well as private footage.

He said vesterday: "I think use of private security videos in general the public are quite happy with the idea of CCTV being used so the police can act

quickly." "If people get the impression that it is not being used to help the police and is being abused it could undermine public confidence."

Last year an Essex man failed to get the High Court to rule that Brentwood Council had acted unlawfully by supplying film of him attempt suicide to Anglia TV and the BBC's Crime Beat pro-

However, both the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Commission agreed that through human error, the privacy of the man had been in-

## Slip under the hype of fashion



Fashion-week shows: Glamour (above) by Ronit Zilkha and (below) by design duo Pearce Flonda Photographs: Ben Elwes

ion Week (LFW) is that everyone thinks it is stock full of weird cutting-edge designers who inhabit a netherworld of obscure design references and loud music.

This is true if you believe the hype that surrounds the event, but in reality this is just not the case. The majority of shows at LFW do not create hype at all. Heard of Ronit Zilkha? No? She does a mean work-suit and Esther Rantzen, Cherie Blair, Maureen Lipman and Gaby Roslin are big fans.

What about Tomasz Starzewski? Essentially a couturier, he does evening and day wear for Ivana Trump and her ilk. They both showed yesterday along with Betty Jackson, and their shows will not create headlines, instead their clothes will be filling their customers' wardrobes come the Autumn, instead of appearing in style magazines.

All three designers have their own successful shops, and a huge worldwide client base. Of the three, Israeli Zilkha is the newest addition to London Fashion Week, having just done her fourth show. She is 30, looks about 25 and is running a business which consists of five shops, at exclusive London addresses, and



When she held her first show in 1996, Zilkha already had three successful shops. This is unusual, generally designers at LFW have no stockists at all when they start out. She is a also a curiosity because the women she famously dresses are all of a certain power-dressing type, leading most people to assume her stock in trade is wide-shouldered jackets with gilt buttons, just as they assume she is forty-something. Neither is true.

Zilkha always shows several elements to her collection. "I like to design for every

body out," she says. Just after the show foreign store buyers swarmed all over the clothes, exclaiming in stilted English over the drape of a certain beaded dress, and the fluffy sheepskin cuffs of a brocade

Betty Jackson, like Zilkha, has legions of fans, but the beauty of her clothes is that they have attracted new followers every season since she launched in 1981. Her clothes don't shout fashion, merely "wear me", but they are always fashionable in the sense that the women who wear them, like Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lamley, are always perfectly in style.

In complete contrast to what is known as "real clothes for real women day" design duo Pearce Fionda, known for their wearable glamour, were clearly chasing potential Oscar clients with a sumptuous collection that was 90 per cent evening wear. The duo, who also design a diffusion line called Pearce II Fionda, have said they are happy to provide their more day-

to-day clothing to Debenhams. In addition, Phillip Treacy, he of the magnificent hats, showed his once yearly collection last night outside the Natural History Museum. The usual celebrity buzz of his show was heightened with clothes by Antony Price, the British couturier who is among those tipped for the head designer job at Versace Couture.

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By Kathy Marks and Louise Jury

A QUICK trim on the 9.07pm InterCity to Manchester and a manicure in the Dog and Duck on the way home. Life in the new millennium will offer ever more chances for time-pressurised workers to get their lives in order, according to research to be presented tomorrow.

Just as filling stations now sell newspapers, milk and even freshly baked doughnuts alongside the petrol, the Future Foundation think-tank is predicting "multi-functioning" as the way ahead. At a conference on the 24-hour society tomorrow, it will describe how increasingly flexible services from hairdressing salons on trains to beauty parlours in pubs will go hand in hand with a growth in the 24-hour society. Our shopping and sleeping

By 2010, predicts Michael Willmott, co-director of the such services is already there, foundation, we will be able to according to a major survey it

habits are about to be trans-

24-HOUR TYPES

Ten years ago you could not:

The Future Foundation has identified four types of consumer distinguished by their attitudes towards the 24-hour society. Fast Laners, are the keenest, enjoying a frenetic lifestyle and believing life would be enhanced if services were available around the clock.

nience-driven people, meanwhile, feel highly time-pressured and would welcome anything that helps solve their problems. Pressured conservatives are equally oppressed by conflicting demands on their time, but opposed in principle to 24-hour services. Past timers also object to the idea and would like the world to regress to the quieter pace of eras past.

I Buy a can of paint or a television on a Sunday. 2 Go to a hairdressers in the evening Buy newspapers at the supermarket.
 Bank by telephone in the middle of the night. 5 Watch television news 24 hours a day. 6 Print your business cards at a motorway service station.

see a film, go for a swim and has carried out into consumer eat out in a restaurant at any time of the day or night. Grocery chains that have introduced round-the-clock opening federation of British Industry, will be followed by department stores, pharmacies and electrical outlets, he believes. The widespread demand for

attitudes. Tomorrow's conference, organised in London by British Telecom and the Conwill hear that only a quarter of their perceptions of time and the population consider themselves to be simply a "normal day person".

Almost half of those questioned want grocery stores to time.'

quarter wanted them open all day and night. Two-thirds would like doctors' surgeries to extend their hours and more than half want dentists to do the same. One-fifth said they even favoured flexible hours for schools, as already happens in San Diego where parents can choose whether their child attends the morning or afternoon package of lessons.

open later in the evening. A

A significant proportion of consumers also want pharmacies, newsagents, garages, clothes shops and record shops to open later. Most enthusiastic about such developments are people in the 18-24 age group - who are also the people with most experience of having actually shopped outside normal hours. Mr Willmott said businesses would need to respond by being less rigid in place, and by creating time-saving opportunities. "As a society, we are increasingly affluent, but the one thing that we lack is







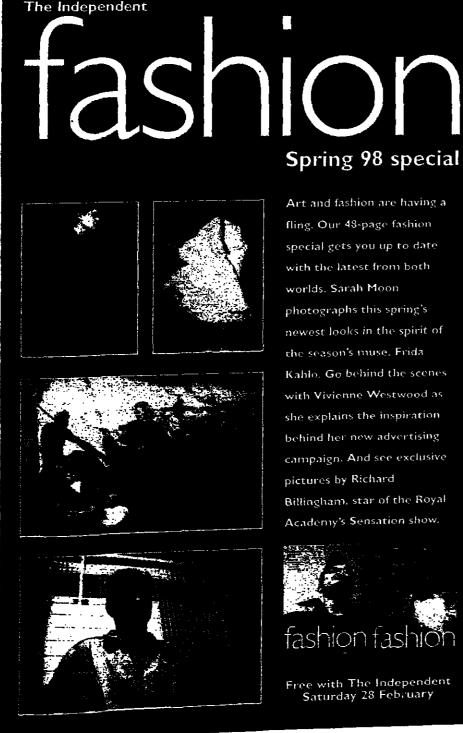
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## Victims of child abuse 'bullied into silence'

By Roger Dobson

AS MANY as one in four women were severely neglected or abused when they were children, according to the results of a 20-year research

And one in 10 suffered sexual abuse as a child, says the research. based on a unique set of life histories of more than 800 women whose collective childhood experiences cover half a century dating back to the end of the First World

The study, carried out by researchers at the Royal Holloway College. University of London, found that women who had been sexually abused were three times more likely to have attempted suicide during childhood.

But although badly neglected by stepmothers, or abused or assaulted by fathers, neighbours, brothers and family friends, most never spoke out about what was happening when they were children. Many were bullied, threatened, blamed, or shamed into keeping quiet.

The study, reported by Antonio Birulco and Patricia Moran, of the Socio-Medical Research Centre at Royal Holloway in a new book, Wednesday's Child, due to be published shortly, is based on detailed interviews with women in their own homes dating back to 1975. "Even though some of their experiences were distressing to account, the women often expressed relief that their accounts were believed, and seemed pleased to have the chance to speak to an outsider in confidence about what they view as important

life experiences," they say. Corroboration was sought when neglect and abuse was alleged, and in some cases sisters were also interviewed to get another view of childhood family life. The team found that nearly one in five had suffered parental neglect, but that figure rose steeply to 44 per cent added to child protection registers. to him being censured by MPs.

among women who had lost their mother in childhood. "Parental neglect was four times as common after the loss of a mother when a stepmother took over responsibility for childcare," say the authors.

A number of women looked after by stepmothers described themselves as Cinderellas, forced to do the housework while their step-siblings were given affection and privileges. The researchers found that sexual abuse was reported by around one in 10 women, but few had disclosed what was happening to them at the time.

"Most of the incidents of sexual abuse in our series of women were kept secret, especially the more severe ones where a third of the women were either threatened or bribed into secrecy. Secretiveness was imposed by the abuser in nearly a quarter of cases," they say.

"Children were often threatened with violence to their siblings or mother if they did not comply with the abuser's wishes, one woman's siblings were beaten if she did not comply with her father's sexual demands. In another instance a father built up his daughter's reputation as a liar so that if she did tell anyone she wouldn't be believed."

The team found that 17 per cent of the women who had been sexually abused had tried to kill themselves during childhood, and that in later life they were three times more likely to suffer with depression. It cautions against assumptions that the father is always to blame in sexual abuse: "Much sexual abuse is not from a natural father or even a relative but from family friends. If cies often do, that the father is necessarily the culprit."

still at risk. In the last recorded 12- Robinson's failure properly to declare month period, 28,000 children were a £12m offshore trust fund, which led



Cat cause: Animal rights campaigners demonstrating at Hillgrove Farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for use in scientific research. There were clashes with police as hundreds of protesters gathered and I3 arrests were made

### Robinson to leave Treasury in shuffle

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

THE PAYMASTER General, Geoffrey Robinson, will be moved out of his Treasury post in the forthcoming reshuffle by Tony Blair, according to Whitehall sources, in an

attempt to quell the Tory pressure

over his private shareholdings. Mr Robinson was yesterday again referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, over an alleged failure for three years to declare an interest in a a child is being sexually abused, one machine took company, Agie UK Ltd. cannot assume, as intervention agen- It is almost certain that the charge made by David Heathcoat-Amory, a Tory Treasury spokesman, will be in-The book points out that despite vestigated by Sir Gordon, who last year heightened awareness, children are produced a critical report on Mr

The Treasury dismissed the claims yesterday as a "joke", and insisted that Mr Robinson had put all his interests on the record. But the controversy surrounding his private shareholdings is causing continuing embarrassment to the Government.

The Independent has learnt from Whitehall sources that Mr Blair intends to move Mr Robinson from the Treasury to avoid undermining the credibility of the Chancellor's March Budget, which carries proposals to close more tax loopholes. Mr Robinson has been advising Gordon Brown on tax changes, but the Tories are preparing to embarrass the Chancellor over his Paymaster General's own offshore shareholdings.

Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, is also expected to be moved having failed to impress with her handling of the reforms to the welfare state.

## **House of Windsor** joins the PR circus

The Royal Family is to put more money into improving its image following privately commissioned research which is said to have confirmed negative image held of. them by the public.

The Queen met members of her family last week to discuss how to boost royal ratings. Focus groups reportedly described them as remote, out of touch, wasteful, not genuine, lacking in understanding, poor value for money and badly advised. A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said last night: "It was suggested more resources might be devoted to communications." However, she dismissed reports that the Queen was to appoint her own £150,000-a-year senior spin-doctor

with as "pure speculation." At the Way Ahead Group sum- execution of their duties.

mit, which happens twice a year to consider long-term issues, members of the Royal Family discussed results of the Mori survey commissioned after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales at a cost of £20,000. A key finding was reportedly that the public considers the royals to be badly advised on a range of issues by their "numerous couriers and official royal advisers." The royals are reportedly regarded as not understanding "at all" and poor value for money. They are seen as wasteful on account of their "apparent extravagant lifestyle" and remote because of "the many physical and invisible barriers thought to have been constructed around them".

On the positive side, the royals were seen to be trustworthy, an integral part of British society, respected, and professional in the

#### Tax penalties in the post

The Inland Revenue was yesterday preparing to send penalty notices to hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who missed the selfassessment tax deadline.

A total of \$10,000 individual taxpavers as well as 70,000 partnerships and 20,000 trusts failed to meet the 31 January deadline. Most face a fixed £100 fine

and those who have not paid their tax are being charged daily interest at 9.5 per cent. Those who have still not paid by the end of February will face a further 5 per cent surcharge.

#### **Peak District** quarry to close

A quarrying operation in a beauty spot which came under fire from Peak District national park officials is to close.

RMC Roadstone has announced it is to withdraw from Longstone Edge where it took over mineral extraction of fluorspar two years ago. The decision follows a move carlier this month when the national park authority stepped in to block a proposed expansion of quarrying in the park. Although the mining company initially said it would appeal over the decision, it has now decided to co-operate with the Peak Park. - Louise Jury

#### Laser hope for cancer

A team of British medics has made a breakthrough in treating a form of cancer with a laser and a light-sensitive drug, it emerged vesterday.

Seven patients have already undergone the revolutionary treatment for pancreatic cancer. which kills 6,000 people a year in the UK. All have so far survived. The results of a six-year research programme in developing the treatment will be outlined on BBC1's Tomorrow's World on Wednesday.

#### **Lottery wins**

Seven ticketholders will share this week's £8.7m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 16, 37, 2, 25, 45, 27 and the bonus was 10.

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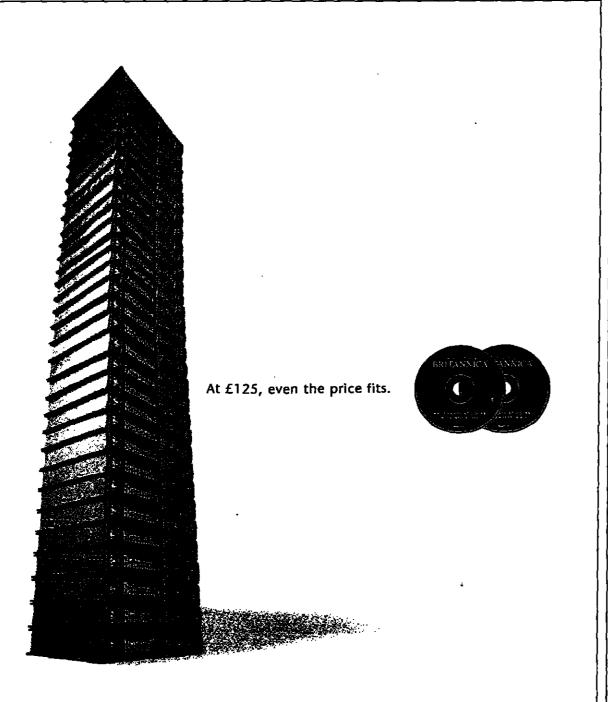
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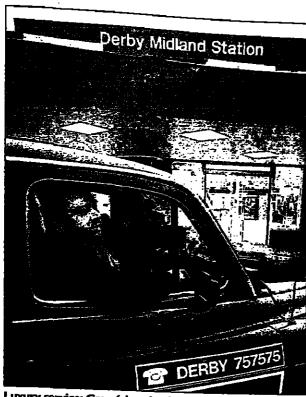
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## Rail passengers fight to save one-way service







By Randeep Ramesh

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and Esther Leach THERE is a train service where passengers recline in leather seats, chat with the driver and

get dropped off at their destination's door. It is not a futuristic vision of Britain's rail service, but the story of the taxi ride that masquerades as the 6:48 morning train from Derby to Sinfin, an industrial suburb of the city. And, if the fat controllers of the private rail network get their way, its journey could be over for good.

Today, public hearings start to close the branch line to the two stations in Sinfin, a threeminute, two-mile journey from the centre of Derby, which costs £1.20 and for more than four years has been served only by a taxi replacing the scheduled

Although the taxi takes longer, the chief benefit for the three regular users is that they do not have to walk from the station - the taxi takes them all the way to their workplaces. One is dropped at his factory at Peartree, a stop half way down the line and the two remaining regulars are driven right to the door of the Rolls-Royce plant.

The downside is that the service is only one way. Returning in the evening they have to walk and take the bus - or a normal taxi at £3.20 At the hearing the Mid-

lands Rail Users' Consultative Committee, the local passenger watchdog, will hear objections from one of the three and Derby City Council, who claim that closing railway stations runs counter to the Government's policy of promoting public transport.

Asking for the line to be shut is John O'Brien, the franchising director who sold-off the railways for the last administration to the private sector.

Mr O'Brien says that trains cannot use the track because it is fitted with "outdated" track circuits which are "incompatible with modern rolling stock". It would cost £50,000, he adds, to allow modern trains to use the railway and another £20,000 to get more services running.

"As a consequence of this Central Trains has been providing a taxi service on a daily basis since September 1993 to convey the small number of passengers using the service,"he says in his closure proposal.

Last week, however, pas-"We feel rather special," said Terry Hackman, as he sank

into the deep seats of the 75 Taxi, a black cab which drew up on time on Derby station forecourt, summoned each morn ing by the stationmaster.

Mr Hackman, who the principal objector to the closure, makes the journey from Belper to Derby just to catch the Sinfin express. He remembers the line's heyday after it was first opened in 1977. "When the trains ran quite a few people would leave their cars at home and take the train to save petrol," he reminisced,

"I have known as many as five people take the taxi. But there's usually three of us. 1 think one of us is away at the moment. We're quite friendly. on first name terms. The taxi journey takes about 10 minutes, which is longer than the train which took just three minutes. But this is a door-to-door service." In fact, the taxi has been not been near Peartree or Sinfin Central stations since 1994.

Richard Armshaw, one of the two workers who travel on to Sinfin and the Rolls-Royce factory, has been a fan of since he started using the service last September. "The only problem with the service is that there isn't a return leg. I have to walk a mile to a bus stop and then wait for a bus into town. I don't get home much before 7.30pm. I my feelings known to the public inquiry about what I'd like to see happen, but it would be much easier for me if there were a regular service from Derby to where I work," he said.

On the surface, this appears just another bizarre tale of farce on the nation's railway. In fact, it is a victim of cuts imposed on the country's trainset. Built to relieve congestion in 1977, the Derby-Sinfin run carried at hits peak 3,000 people a day to work at the Rolls-Royce plant. By 1994, cuts in services left just a few hundred passengers a day so the trains were replaced by buses, losing even more passengers. Last year, the line notched up a little over 600 passenger journeys.

The passenger watchdog has also received complaints that the service was being run with the minimum legal service in order to drive away passengers. This would, experts believe, would make a closure attempt more likely to succeed.

However, the people with most to lose are the taxi drivers for whom the route has become a nice little earner. "It will be sengers sang the line's praises. a shame if it comes to an end but we will have to wait and see," said Gary, the taxi driver.

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Glenda Cooper assesses a new study on separation and hears a minister pledge to put the tax allowance debate high on the agenda

## **Quality of** care 'affects a child's IQ'

GOOD quality care can have significant positive effects on language, social and emotional development, a review of studies going back 40 years has concluded.

The idea that young children are harmed by separation from their mothers is simply not true, says the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the Institute for Education. Family life continues to be the most important influence on young children even when they receive substantial amounts of non-parental care.

Last week The Independent launched its campaign for a tax allowance for working mothers, urging

the Chancellor to invest in the nation's children. Affordable and quality childcare is the main barrier preventing women from returning to work. Nearly one-third said that they were discouraged from returning to work after childbirth because of the expense.

Working parents have to pay on average £6,000 a year out of after-tax income on childcare - more

than they spend on food or housing. Parents pay more than 90 per cent of the cost of childcare - more than in most other advanced countries.

The Thomas Coram researchers looked at nearly 200 studies into childcare and argued that the ability of successive governments to respond to increased demand for early childhood services has been held back by ideology.

Dr Tony Munton, one of the coauthors said: "If you look back to 1945 the state was a major provider of childcare because women needed to be in the factories. When the war ended then women needed to be got out of work and back into the home. How did they do that? They looked around for some scientific work to justify that the best place for the children was in the home with their mother. They came up with work on the notion of dren in orphanages did less well than children in the family home. They applied work in residential care to ma-

Their findings are backed up by a review released by the Institute of Child Health last year which said that those with pre-schooling have academic advantages. Its research encompassed eight important studies which stretch back as far as the 1960s. All eight studies showed that IQ was increased in children who attended day-care centres and the early gains helped to prevent later failure at school. Although the IQeffect became less pronounced as the

children grew older, five out of the six trials showed that children continued to achieve better results in reading, language and mathematics tests. Day care also appeared to have a civilising influence on the children, with teachers reporting that they were much better motivated.

"There isn't a scrap of evidence that putting children in day care while their mothers go to work is bad for

their health or education," said Ian Roberts, director of the Child Health Monitoring Unit at the Institute of Child Health. "On the contrary, the evidence from well-conducted and controlled trials suggests that it's very good for children."

However, Dr Munton warns that the emphasis must be on high quality childcare. An American study looking at more than 800 children found children receiving high-quality care had greater receptive language ability and pre-mathematics skills than those in low-quality care. But Patricia Morgan, author of Who Needs Parents? The Effects of Childcare and Early Education on Children in Britain and the USA, believes that many children in daycare suffered because they did not get the attention they would do from their mothers and so their cog-



Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Women, who has given the campaign backing, says 'What we're trying to do is create incentives for people to move from welfare to work'

## It has to be financially worthwhile to be in work

THE Minister for Women today supports our campaign for childcare, pledging that the issue will be high on the Government's agenda in the coming months.

Joan Ruddock said: "I think the campaign is superb. It is a real indication that there is a major debate with which people are becoming engaged. Women themselves are beginning to realise they are having the opportunity to work. This is the contemporary debate for women, not only those who are already young mothers but those who are anticipating becoming mothers."

Ms Ruddock was appointed to the post of Minister for Women with three priorities: childcare, family friendly policies and action on violence against women. It is with the first two that she must prove herself in the run-up to the Budget on 17 March, and the national childcare gy to achieve? "It has to be financially worthwhile to be in work and this is what we expect to see from the Chancellor. The Chancellor sees it as an economic issue and we are quite confident that this means that he will in future take into consideration the tax arrangements which he deems appropriate. We are very pleased that this is the case, that we are the Government that has taken a new direction on childcare."

The main problem many women face is that they may want to go back to work but cannot afford to do so. "What we're trying to do overall is create incentives for people to move from welfare into work so the sort of changes we hope and expect to get from the Chancellor will be very much encouraging that opportunity and acknowledging childcare needs to underpin that role whether it is a

a two-people household, or a woman in a lone-parent household."

What role are employers meant to play in the new childcare impetus? In other countries they often share far more of the burden. But Ms Ruddock said: "We're already in close contact with employers ... big companies who themselves have put into practice many of the things we would like to see made available - part-time work, job-sharing as a means of bringing women back into the workplace after they've had children and some of these companies have seen the return rate of

these women dramatically increase. "But we don't think that the workplace nursery is a universal panacea. It can't be because many people are living - and it's very obvious here in London - in a community where you're travelling a

What does she want the strate- workplace, whether it is a woman in want to take the child into the workplace for a host of reasons.

"Clearly, however, we are prepared to look at all incentives ... It's not just about childcare. Some of it is about the family friendly dimension. For example, if you have a woman or a man who has responsibilities ... as a good employer you should have a code of practice that says this person is known to have these responsibilities and so don't ask this person to work outside the hours they are committed to work."

She thinks many businesses are waking up to this: "Losing people from the workplace matters. It's been found in the case of ordinary employees that it can cost around £10,000 to recruit a replacement."

So far the Government has promised £300m for the creation of about 30,000 after-school clubs. But what about women who want to go

put a figure on under-five provision because that's a little less quantifiable ... it's an enormous task," Ms Ruddock said.

The other problem that is facing the Government is the introduction of the minimum wage. Many childminders are among the most poorly paid workers in the country. "It is important that people who are childminders are financially rewarded for their job of work. We want to encourage childcare to be made a job worth paying for and a key task the Chancellor has is what kind of tax arrangements we are able to make to underpin affordable childcare."

"At the end of the day we are going to have some priorities. There is a debate about whether we should be looking at providing for children up to the age of 11, 12, 14, 16 - this is an ongoing debate ... and not yet



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## Richard Rogers heads environment task force

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

LORD ROGERS of Riverside, the leading architect and Labour peer, is to be appointed by John Prescott to head a task force to help restore the green credentials of Tony Blair's government and defuse a row over the countryside before a mass

protest march in London. Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and Regions, will announce today that Richard Rogers has agreed to help the Government identify derelict and redundant brownfield sites in towns, where more housing could be built

to remove the pressure for housing in the statement to the Commons will spike sion to the countryside lobby on Wednes-

"Lord Rogers is obviously a man with drive. His job will be to identify all those brownfield sites where development could take place. It will help local authorities, or give them a kick up the backside if they need said a source.

Mr Prescott will also tell MPs that he is adopting a new policy requiring at least 60 per cent of all housing to be built on brownfield sites. A windfall tax on buildbut will not be in the Chancellor's Budget on 17 March.

Mr Prescott's friends believe that the Deputy Prime Minister's long-awaited

William Hague's Tory guns, which were lining up to give the Government a pounding in advance of the countryside march next Sunday. "It will be a killer blow for the Tories because they put 60 per cent in their own

election manifesto," the source said. The march is organised by the Countryside Alliance, which is promising it will eclipse last summer's pro-hunting rally in Hyde Park. A total of 1,900 buses have been hired in a show of strength aimed at forcing ministers ing on the green belt is being considered to retreat on a range of issues affecting the countryside, including a threat to ban fox-

hunting with a Labour Private Member's Bill. The environment minister Michael Meacher will announce a further conces-

day with a consultation paper holding back the threat of legislation to enforce a right to roam. The Green Paper will give landowners time to co-operate by giving more access to ramblers and it will exclude cultivated land, and possibly grouse moors

during the breeding season. In a decision likely to cause some ruffled hairs among the ramblers, the right to roam will not be extended to dogs. A source was quoted as saying: "New Labour is all about rights and responsibilities. If we give the dogs rights, how do we explain to them that they have responsibilities as well?"

Mr Prescott, writing in the Independent on Sunday yesterday, said he would be an-

nouncing a more "flexible" approach to planning, allowing groups of councils in the country's eight regions to draw up their own plans for how many new houses they can accommodate, and abandoning the imposition of plans from Whitehall to "predict and provide" growth in housing.

The Deputy Prime Minister also disclosed that he wants to develop four or five millennium villages in Britain on the lines of the plans he announced last week for a site close to the millennium Dome in Greenwich, south-east London.

In a move that will remind supporters of his old Labour credentials, Mr Prescott also announced at the weekend that he is appointing a trade union group chaired by

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general workers union, to provide advice to the Government on the environment, and its impact on industry and jobs. It follows private criticism from trade union leaders, including Rodney Bickerstaff of Unison, that Tony Blair appeared to be taking more advice from bosses than unions.

Mr Prescott answered criticism of his decision to allow green-belt housing in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, at a meeting of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association. He said the housing would be close to a railway station, and was one of the tough choices to be made to fulfil the pledges made at the summit in Kyoto, Japan, to halt global warming.

## Tories reject **Mandelson** plea on Dome

By Colin Brown

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THE Tories last night rejected an appeal by Peter Mandelson for a cross-party ceasefire over the £750m Millennium Dome project and accused the Minister without Portfolio of lying to win their support.

Mr Mandelson is alleged to have warned Tory frontbenchers. spokesman for culture, at a private meeting last week that the was "on a knife-edge" and would be undermined by continued Tory sniping.

He attempted to secure Tory sponsorship?" support in advance of the unveiling tomorrow by Tony Blair of the detailed plans for the Dome in an attempt to overcome the criticism.

Although the project has the backing of Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister who is on the project team, Mr Maude hit back last night by accusing Mr Mandelson of not telling the truth, and calling for him to be sacked as the minister for the Dome.

Ministers are concerned about complaints from the public that the money would be better spent in reducing the record National Health Service, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

chances. He said there could be William Hague, the Tory leader. That offer is likely to be dismissed out of hand by the Prime Minister, but Mr Maude's

He said: "When is Peter Mandelson telling the truth? Was he telling us the truth at our meeting on Tuesday when he deincluding Francis Maude, the scribed the Millennium Dome project as 'on a knife-edge' because he couldn't secure the financial success of the project necessary sponsorship, or was he telling the truth when only a few hours later he announced that he had 'no worries' about its

Mr Mandelson, whose reputation is resting on the success of the Dome, told The Independent that the Dome would be a success, and it could be sold after the year-long "experience" exhibition.

two organisations who want to take over the Dome after the year-long show was over, but he was also interested in the idea by Tony Banks, the sports minister, for turning it into a football stadium for the London bid for the Olympics.

the BBC Breakfast with Frost the cost to the National Lottery millennium fund, which is paying £400m towards the cost of But the Tories made clear the centre in south-east London. that there will be no truce. Mr He said he hoped the gate Maude said the Millennium receipts would be higher than Dome was intended to be "a expected from the estimated 12 new Labour monument", which million visitors in the first year. the Tories suspect is being used enabling more money to be to boost Labour's re-election repaid to the millennium fund.

Tory support, if Mr Blair agreed to the Dome being opened with claims infuriated ministers.

Unravelling the myths and mysteries surrounding minister's baby PETER Mandelson yesterday admitted that there was a need He has been approached by to "nail the myths" about the Millennium Dome which have led to doubts being expressed

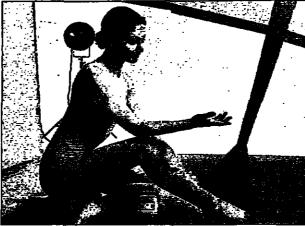
about the wisdom of pouring £750m into the project, writes Colin Brown. Here are some of the issues on which the "Dome Minister" will be seeking to convince the Mr Mandelson also said on public that the Dome is worth the money, and is not destined

A: Details are to be unveiled by Tony Blair tomorrow but it will have at least nine zones - a work zone including a valley of lad-

Q: What is it for? A: The theme is "Time to Make a Difference". Mr Mandelson says it will be "an opportunity for people to reflect, to take stock, to consider what sort of society we live and how we live and how we work, rest and play

ders tracing career paths of the future; rest zone with a dream sequence ride in which visitors lie on beds; play zone, featuring a new specially designed game called Surfball; a mind zone with a virtual brain, and quizzes; a spirit zone featuring an Egyptian-style pyraof spirituality; global zone - selfsufficient rainforest eco-system; a local zone, showing a zone featuring a 320ft human figure with a child surrounded by toys, so huge that tourists will

be able to tour the internal or-



Uncertain future: The Prime Minister is to unveil detailed plans for the £750m Millennium Dome project tomorrow, but it could be sold after the year-long exhibition Photograph: Brian Harris

different town each day, with Dancer Naomi Crouch has told Panorama that she is the Stirling as the first, and the body model for Millennium Man Photograph: BBC Photographic Library

Q: Is it taking taxpayer's money? tional Lottery. An estimated A: According to Mr Mandelson £150m will come from sponit is going to take "at the most" £400m in cash from the Na-

sorship by firms, and £190m from gate receipts.

Q: How much will it cost to get A: Around £17.50 a head but

there are rumours of concessions for local residents in Greenwich. Q: How many are expected to

turn ap? A: Around 12 million in total, or 35,000 at any one time, but it could be higher in five-hour Q: What happens to the Dome sessions, three times a day. Q: How do you get there?

Dome, is to be renamed the them to Peter Mandelson.

Millennium Gateway. O: Will the Dome be torn down after a year?

A: The Dome is planned to be permanent. The Government changed the fabric cover of the Dome from PVC to Teilon. The Millenium Experience will last a year but it could be extend-

when the show is over? A: Tony Banks, the sports minnts to turn it into a footlink from Central London, ball stadium for the London bid which has been beset by delays for the Olympics. Two organiand disputes, but Mr Mandel- sations are bidding to take it son promised it will be open by. over. It could be sold to private the end of 1999; there will also firms for a permanent exhibition. be Thames cruises; plans are in Got any bright ideas for the for a park-and-ride system. Dome - it is 330ft high, has 12 Stansted Airport, where the masts, and covers an area the size charter flights will land for the of four Trafalgar Squares? Send

## Unions cut £400,000 from donations to Labour

Q: What will it contain?

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

LABOUR'S biggest benefactors are to cut nearly £400,000 from their donations at a time when the party is experiencing severe financial problems.

The public service union Unison, the Transport and General and the GMB general union, which together coutribute more than one-quarter of the party's funds, have decided to make massive cuts.

The decline in the big

unions' subvention to the party is a barometer of the dwindling number of trade unionists, but there is also considerable disquiet among senior union ac- a union recognition law. tivists about the political direction of the Government under Tony Blair's stewardship.

The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU), which withheld £250,000 from the Labour Party's election fund last year, is biding its time before deciding how much to give the party in affiliation fees. Sources at the candidates at the expense of

union say they first want to see the contents of the "Fairness at Work" White Paper in April. which will include proposals on

One AEEU official also said they were keen to find out bow many of its members would be selected for impending Euroelections before making a final decision. The £250,000 withheld by the engineering union was in protest at the Labour leadership's alleged practice of "parachuting in" middle-class parliamentary

action to the White Paper will be the main factor in deter- it is simply "churning" with the mining union contributions to number of leavers being matched

party finances.

the party. Mr Blair's zeal in by the number of joiners. Unions transforming Labour into the business-friendly party of government may have to be tempered by considerations about ly because of disillusionment

The impending drop in union affiliation fees is accompanied by concerns about the level of Labour's individual member- £4.75m overdraft built up in the ship. Senior party sources insist two years to the general election. of James Bond's arch enemy,

its own locally selected members. that while membership has There is little doubt that re- stopped growing, it is not declining. Party officials claim that register scepticism about such claims, arguing that the true figures will show a sharp drop, large-

> The most recent figures from Labour show that it has incurred debts of £3.5m on top of the

with new Labour.

#### Connery in knighthood row SCOTTISH Nationalists are Smersh, to save the free world, Labour MP for Glasgow Mary-

reports that actor Sean Connery English establishment. was refused a knighthood because of his separatist views, writes Andrew Buncombe.

Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has been accused of personally interscrapped from the New Year's Honours List.

Some might enjoy the irony of the man, who as his most famous alter ego, took on the likes

question the Government over being allegedly snubbed by the hill, said she was pleased Con-

But last night the Scottish would be outraged. "I think being honoured in that way." Donald Dewar has done his reputation irreparable damage. vening to have Connery's name Sean Connery ... has contributed as an international ambassador very considerably." He said he would be tabling parliamentary questions.

> Mr Dewar yesterday declined to comment but Maria Fvfe, SNP since 1991.

nery had not been knighted. The attitude he has shown to-National Party leader, Alex wards violence towards women Salmond, said that all Scotland is one that is not compatible with

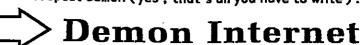
Her comment was dismissed by the SNP as a crude smear. The party said it was certain the only reason Connery had lost out was because of his politics.

Connery, who will undoubtedly be shaken not stirred by the affair, has been a member of the

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## Slave labourers to sue Ford for brutality under Nazis

Survivors of death factories are demanding compensation. Louise Jury reports

face legal action from men and women used as forced labour when the Nazis took over its factory in Germany during the Second World War

Thousands of people, mainly civilians taken to Germany illegally from Eastern Europe and prisoners of war, were starved and viciously beaten when the regime turned its industry over to the war effort.

Many are now seeking compensation.

Lawyers Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes and Lerach will this week launch their claim against the American car giant, with other United States and German manufacturers set to face legal action in the near

Although Ford had no control over its factory during the war, the lawyers believe it has a responsibility to those forced to

A BBC investigation for Radio 4's World at One and BBC2's Newsnight programmes has revealed what happened in the car plant during the war years. In reports due to be broadcast today, victims of forced labour speak out about their time

FORD, THE American car company, is to at the factory and argue that they should nature." Yet John Rintamaki, Ford's combe compensated now.

> Elsa Iwanowa, a Russian forced from her home to work for the Nazis at the age of 16, told reporter Rob Broomby: "At the factory, we worked non-stop and were starying all the time. We were treated as animals. We had no names only numbers. We were starving and it was freezing cold. The

work was extremely hard." Her name will be put forward as a representative for the proposed class action against Ford. The lawyers Milburg Weiss have the details of another 2,600 people who worked at the plant, where production of military trucks continued nearly all the way through the war.

The claim is based on the principle of quasi-contract - that workers in the factory were employed and should have been paid. There is also the notion of "unjust enrichment" from the war-time labourers'

Mel Weiss, acting for the former workers, said: "The profits should be appropriated for the slave labourers and Ithe compensation] should be part punitive in

pany lawyer, said that the Cologne plant was commandeered by the Nazis.

"They dictated what was going to be made, how it would be made, and the labour conditions," Mr Rintamaki said. "It's our view that this is a matter for the German government with respect to the actions of the Nazi government between 1940 and

The company believes that it received no profits or dividends from the factory, he said. "We've looked at the records again to try to understand what happened and ... as far as we can tell, for instance, Ford did not receive any profits or dividends from the operation in Cologne.

However, the BBC investigation showed that dividends of at least 5 per cent were being put aside as late as 1943, and what happened to that money remains a

Hans Grande, the 93-year-old former head of production at the plant, said that the intention was clearly that payments would be made to shareholders at a later



Roman Halter: 'People have no understanding of what the starvation was like

## 'It was known you were going to be murdered by work'

THE TALL, slightly stooping figure of Roman Halter pauses as if in great silent pain as he explains life as a slave labourer.

"Slave labour was a form of murder. You worked under the movements to conserve your SS and it was recognised that you were going to be murdered through work," Mr Halter said. The average time spent as a Jewish slave worker was three and a half months.

Roman Halter, a Polishborn architect and artist now living in Surrey, is one of more than 160 known former slave labourers in Britain and a founder of the Claims for Jewish Slave-Labour Compensation association which wants Germany to compensate them for their sufferings.

Slave labour was intended as an alternative way of killing Jews, by giving them a starvation diet and the most difficult and dangerous work.

Mr Halter's story is typical. Aged 12 when the war broke

higher form of hunger, but starvation was such that the body reacted quite differently to normal," he said. "It makes you very slow, you calculate energy. When you're very starved, your power of speech is limited. If you talk, tears start running involuntarily so you learn to speak in sound bites."

He received permanent damage to his hip joint a guard struck him with his rifle.

ats the

"We were being taken out to be shot. Usually before execution one person was chosen to traumatise the others and his skull was smashed." A co-worker realised Mr Halter was about to be struck. "The man yelled, 'Get down, move, and ... the butt of the rifle slid down and hit me on

the hip." He escaped being shot. On 13 February 1945, the Allied bombing of Dresden began and the factory was damaged beyond repair. Mr Halter escaped Nazi control as they



Women outside the Ford factory in Cologne where they were used as forced labour by the Nazis

out, he was quickly herded were being marched to Therewith hundreds of other Jews into the Lodz ghetto where lie worked in a metal factory. They employed children in the munitions factories because of their devicrity." he said.

When the ghetto was "liquidated" in 1944, Mr Halter was on the last transport train to Auschwitz. He and 500 others from his factory escaped death because they were workers. More than 2000 others were gassed within hours of arrival. Assigned to work in a mu-

nitions factory, they arrived in Dresden in November 1944. The regime was brutal. "People have no understanding of what the starvation

was like. They think it was a

sienstadt, the German show concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

Now aged 70, he said the memory of the war was "indelibly ingrained". He has met with the Foreign Office to seek advice on how they can proceed with their case. Previous attempts to raise the issue in the Fifties went nowhere, but they are determined now.

"What hurts and insults us is the fact that the SS troops who guarded and tortured us and murdered with impunity, now receive a good pension and we, who were compelled to slave labour under them ... have not yet been compensat-

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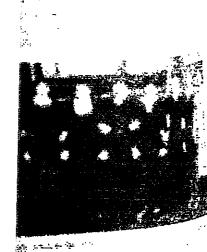
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## Anarchy reigns as Cologne's party animals take to streets

By Imre Karacs in Cologne

ISCREAMING hordes of children, inebriated civil servants in multicoloured costumes, and armics of revellers kitted out in Napoleonic uniforms are girding their loins for one final push. Today is Rosenmontag, the last of the "crazy days". the climax of a season of orgy which punctuates the passing of years in the

Carnival is upon us, a time when noise is not only allowed but obligatory, when pedestrians resolve to at least try to ignore red lights, and urinating in public becomes a touching expression of comradeship. Every social convention is turned upside down. There is even a moment in the carefully chorcographed hiatus when the women storm the town hall, seize power and cut off the men's ties. How Freudian can you get?

Since last Thursday, the start of the "crazy days", the streets have been overflowing with jolly bank clerks, cabinet ministers have been performing head stands for the bencfit of the cameras, and shopkeep-

with red paint. Today the partying and the adultery - which tradition and the law dictate is a forgivable sin if committed during carnival - will all come to an end. The edifice of order, smashed to oblivion in five fleeting days, will be rebuilt brick by brick. Just try putting on your washing machine after 10pm tomorrow.

But until the last float in a fourmile procession passes the town hall this afternoon, anarchy reigns. About a million people will teeter along the route, stuffing themselves with Wurst and guzzling litres of the local beer. "Kamelle, Kamelle," shout the children, waiting for the heavens to open up, showering them with chocolate bars and toffee. Cologne's businesses are spending more than DM1bn on "Kamelle" -"sweets" in the Rhenish dialect.

The townsfolk have been bingeing their way to Lent in this manner since 1341. Unlike the rest of Catholic Germany, where the various guises of the religious festival have retained some of their Christian spirit. Cologne has always preferred to go back to its pagan roots. ers have covered their stern faces And while other cities along the



Crazy hazy days: Revellers wearing clown costumes taking in the carnival atmosphere in Düsseldorf's Koenigsallee shopping street

Rhine have tried to surpass Cologne in vulgarity, none have come close. Düsseldorf, it is true, scored in shock value this year by erecting a pair of giant breasts on Karneval, Fastnacht or Fasching - a float, but its well-manicured upper class revellers are no match for the plebeian masses that file past Cologne's celebrated cathedral.

"All one can see is workers with

filthy overalls, contorted masks and long hair, farmers in dirty costumes. repulsive nuns, and hags in old-fashioned clothes," observed a Bavarian courtier in 1802. "One can perceive, on these masked persons alone, to what depths tastes and education in Cologne have sunk."

The Bavarian's misgivings were shared by the French occupiers, who banned carnival for four years. In 1799, it was allowed again, only to be forbidden by the Prussians who followed in Napoleon's footsteps. It was exactly 175 years ago that the city fathers finally persuaded the Prussian masters to sanction a procession on Rose Monday.

Ever since then, the celebrations have followed the same rules, enforced by a committee of local business leaders. And because of Cologne's history of occupations, there has always been an anti-authoritarian streak in the festivities.

The season begins on 11 November, with organisers devoting 10 weeks of their life to designing costumes and floats, and rehearsing raunchy show-stoppers.

Everything, as you might expect, runs like clockwork. As the procession turns the last corner at four o'clock sharp, the road-sweepers are already poised with their brooms. Within a few hours, the detritus is cleared up, the drunks stagger home and shop assistants wipe away their smiles. Tomorrow, normal service resumes.

Photograph: Gero Breloer/AFP

## Mayoral battle puts the vice back into Miami

By Phil Davison

HOLLYWOOD might call it Miami Vice, the Real-Life Sequel. Just as the city was starting to recover from highly publicised tourist murders and pulling back from the brink of bankruptcy, it has been torn apart by a ferocious row about corruption.

Miami mayor Xavier Suarez, a Cuban-American sometimes known as Hurricane Xavier or Mayor Loco (the Crazy Mayor) for his gung-ho style, won last November's mayoral election. The man he beat, fellow Cuban exile Joe Carollo, cried fraud, the case went to trial and Cuban-Americans went to war.

Mr Carollo, the incumbent since 1993, finished well ahead of Mr Suarez, mayor from 1985-93, but fell 155 votes short of the 50 per cent required to avoid a run-off. In the run-off nine days later, Mr Suarez won. On both days, absentee bailots swung the vote in Mr Suarez's

For the past two weeks, Miami judge Thomas Wilson, who can decide whether to re-run the election or hand it to Mr Carollo, has heard daily evidence that Suarez aides launched a campaign, particularly in the city's "Little Havana" area of Cuban-Americans, to capture or fake absentee ballots. Manuel Yip. who voted for Mr Suarez. was found to have been dead for four years. A basketball coach with the Suarez campaign described how he handed out \$10 to poor residents of the Overtown black ghetto to get their vote. A 92-year-old Cuban exile, Alberto Russi, persuaded more than 90 of his domino partners in Little Havana to post fake absentee ballots. More than 100 convicted felons vot-

ed, which is illegal. Even before the trial Mr Suarez had got off to a bad start. He tried to sack popular police chief Donald Warshaw, a white non-Cuban, and replace him with a Cuban-American. Mr Warshaw refused to go and, backed by non-Cubans, won

Prime Health

Then the mayor showed up alone, shortly before midnight, at the home of a middle-aged woman who had written him a critical letter. "He looked mad, really, really mad," said Edua Benson. She grabbed her .38 revolver, loaded with hollowpoint bullets, and told him to go away. He did.

Later, upset by daily criticism from the local newspaper, the Miami Herald, Mr Suarez decided that a telephoned threat to pull all city advertising might shut them up. Unfortunately, the Herald taped the call and broadcast it on local television. "Politically, it wasn't a bright thing

to do," he conceded later. But it was a nationally seen report by the CBS 60 Minutes programme last week that really stirred things up. Commenting on the alleged voter frauds, Florida professor Dario Moreno, himself a Cuban-American, described Miami as "almost a Third World banana republic", and said that Cuban exiles had "perfected fraud to

a fine art". Many of his fellow Cuban-Americans were outraged, calling him a "sell-out Cuban". Some tried to have him kicked out of Florida International University. Others support him. saying Cuban exiles should stop name-calling and focus on the corruption. The feud fills local airwaves and newspaper letter

columns. In his Miami Herald column, best-selling novelist Carl Hiaasen, author of Striptease, is having a field day. Commenting on the re-election of a Suarez protege, 35-year-old Cuban-American Humberto Hernandez, to the city council, Mr Hiaasen noted that Mr Hernandez was currently under indictment on 23 counts of various banking and mortgage frauds and money laundering.

"In most law-abiding American cities, Hernandez wouldn't have had the nerve to run for re-election - or, at the very least, he would have been jeered out of the race," wrote Mr Hiaasen. "In Miami, naturally, he won by a landslide."

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#### Hindu party ousted

India's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was ousted from power in the northern Uttar Pradesh state in the midst of national elec-

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the BJP's candidate for prime minister, began a fast-unto-death to press for the dismissal of the state governor, Romesh Bhandari, saying that he helped defectors from the party to win power without proof of legislative support. - Reuters, New Delhi

#### CIA admits Cuba error

The CIA, in a report kept secret for 36 years, blamed its own arrogance, ignorance and incompetence for the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, the New York Times said. The inquiry was at last released last week under the US Freedom of Information Act to the National Security Archive, a non-profit group that collects and publishes declassified government

- Reuters, New York

#### Sex horror suspect dies

An elderly Italian farmer who had been ordered to stand retrial over a series of grisly serial sex killings known as the "Monster of Florence" murders died, police said. Pietro Pacciani, 73, was originally convicted in 1994 of the killings and then acquitted in what remains one of Italy's most sensational criminal mysteries. Initial reports said he appeared to have suffered a heart at-

- Reuters, Florence

#### Papal vision of future

Pope John Paul, addressing a new batch of cardinals who eventually will choose his successor, said he hoped the third millennium of Christianity would launch a "springtime of hope" for humanity.

The 77-year-old Pope presided at a solemn Mass held in St Peter's Square to give the rings of office to 19 of the 22 cardinals that he elevated to the high rank at a ceremony on

-- Reuters, Rome



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As a deal over the United Nations weapons inspectors takes shape between Saddam Hussein and

## Jordan fury over first death in confrontation

By Patrick Cockburn in Ma'an, south Jordan

The first and so far only person to die as a direct result of the confrontation between Iraq and the US was shot dead in a demonstration in the desert town of Ma'an, south Jordan. He was Mohammed Abdullah al-Kateb, a 22-year-old studeut, killed by a bullet in the heart as he demonstrated in favour of Iraq near the main mosque in Ma'an on Friday.

His death led to two days of rioting during which townspeople used guns and fought off police to rescue Mr Kateb's body from the local hospital and carry it through the streets. A further 20 people were injured. During a visit, King Hussein said he would not tolerate violence and lamented that the riots should have started "in Ma'an, which was the town where the Kingdom [of Jordan] was founded".

By yesterday the army and police had declared a curfew. Bedouin soldiers had parked a truck mounting a heavy machine gun across the main en-

body who took part in the demonstrations," said a soldier.

To prevent news of the riots the local telephone system. At another checkpoint, police, backed by an armoured car, said they were on the lookout for journalists, either foreign or Jordanian, and were under orders to turn them back. As we spoke, the hand radio of one policeman announced that some iournalists had been seen "talking to the people" and that this was to be prevented.

Despite the attempt to create a news blackout, the course of the riots in the Jordanian heartland appears clear. On Friday Leith Shubeilat, president of the Jordanian Engineers' Association, a major opposition figure known for his pro-Iraqi sympathies, gave a sermon in the mosque in Ma'an.

Local people say that at a rally attended by about 150 people afterwards, police opened fire with tear gas and the demonstrators responded with stones. As the clashes escalated. police and rioters used trance to Ma'an and were guns and Mr Kateb was shot letting nobody through. "We through the heart from be-

are looking for arms and any- hind, according to a doctor rived later, he said: "Tribal who saw his body in the hospital. Navif Abu Hlaleh, an MP who was leading the rally, told spreading, the government shut a Jordanian newspaper it was peaceful "but suddenly the police started throwing tear gas and shooting with live ammu-

> The riots are serious because they took place among Jordanians in an area traditionally loyal to the Hashemite monarchy and a recruiting ground for the army and police. They are also the type of outburst every Arab ruler fears if there is a second round to the Gulf war. Within hours of the shooting of Mr Kateb the streets of Ma'an looked like a West Bank town during fighting between Israelis and Pales-

Tyres were burning and streets were blocked by stones. Young stone-throwers wrapped their head-dresses around their faces to prevent recognition.On Saturday four policemen were hospitalised after a gun battle.

At the same time the relatives of Mr Kateb stormed the hospital where his body had been taken and took it away for burial. When King Hussein ar-

leaders are not able to control some of the people who carry machine-guns."

He warned that if there was a US military strike on Iraq, half a million Iraqi refugees might come to Jordan. He said that Israel might also push Palestinians from the West Bank into Jordan. Palestinians in Jordan generally feel too vulnerable to demonstrate. But Jordanians, particularly from the south of the country, have done so sev-

eral times in the past 10 years. In 1996 a rise in the price of bread led to severe rioting in Karak, a hill-top town north of Ma'an.

The government's immediate reaction to the riots was to arrest Mr Shubeilat and an unknown number of local people. One man said that many students and teachers had been put in jail, though he admitted that his information was sketchy.

Abdul Salam al Majali, the Prime Minister, said a state of emergency may be imposed. Describing what happened as a "shameful act", King Hussein warned of the vulnerability of Jordan, caught as it is between



## EU ministers relegate stand-off to bottom of talks agenda

By Steve Crawshaw in Brussels

EUROPEAN foreign ministers meet in Brussels today for key talks on the most important foreign-policy issues facing the European Union. Given the circumstances, including the last-ditch attempts vesterday to find a compromise solution even as war continues to loom, one might assume that the Irag crisis would dominate the agenda. One would be wrong.

Iraq is seventh out of eight items on the running order, barely a postscript to be discussed "over lunch". South Africa, Switzerland, China and Iran all figure more prominently.

of the Union until June, has not encouraged the EU to get involved. Indeed, it takes scant notice of the views of its European partners. During recent shuttle diplomacy to the Gulf, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, emphasised that he only represented Britain. His key telephone calls are to the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, not to Brussels, Paris or Bonn.

All of which has caused some restlessness in Europe. The Dutch foreign minister. Hans van Mierlo, talked of Britain's "big problems" in meeting its obligations as an EU member, and complained that Britain

outside". French diplomats complain: "Why hasn't Tony Blair discussed things with the 15? It would have been difficult [to find a joint solution], but one could have tried."

None the less, Dutch diplomats insist that Mr van Mierlo was making a general point, affecting France as well as the UK: "Britain has two hats and two sets of responsibilities. It's not always easy to distinguish which hat a country is wearing. Two countries [Britain and France] are permanent members of the Security Council and also sometimes presidents of the EU. What he was trying to say is that there is always a dilem-

Britain, which holds the presidency was "trying to keep the EU on the ma when that happens. It was not Atlantic, virtually being allowed to meant as a criticism of the UK."

The French have been outspokenly at odds with Britain. In practice, however, this has been a national rather than a European viewpoint. A front-page headline in Le Monde last week talked of France "leading a final battle" to avoid war. The paper argued: "France is the only Western country to be directly involved in seeking a peaceful solution." Even the French, while refusing to contemplate the possibility of military action, acknowledge that other European countries will probably go along with it, if push comes to shove. For the moment, Britain is, on this side of the run the show.

Theoretically, Europe is working towards a common foreign policy. Yugoslavia was a high priority for the EU, and a diplomatic disaster, not least because of the divisions within the Union, But Yugoslavia was, as diplomats note. "on our doorstep", and therefore had to be confronted, at least in theory. The complexities of Iraq are further away, thus offering a useful alibi for European failure to have an agreed view. Britain and France, who both still like to think of themselves as global movers and shakers, are outspoken in their respective views. Oth-

ers believe, as one diplomat acknowledged, that "they can afford to wash their hands".

Germany, whose constitution bars it from involvement in military adventures abroad, has been mostly supportive of Britain - emphasising the need to seek a diplomatic solution, but also accepting the possibility of military action, if other options fail. At today's meeting, there will be "strong support for continuing diplomatic efforts", which sounds like Élysée-speak. But the Italians. for example, are notably reluctant to criticise the tough British stance. "This is a question of braccia di ferro," one Italian diplomat noted -

"iron-arm", meaning the test of strength where the weaker person's arm is forced down to the table.

There is unanimity that Saddam Hussein must comply with UN resolutions, but on the question of military force, views are more mumbled.

If diplomatic pressures, including vesterday's visit to Baghdad by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, force Saddam Hussein to back down, France will claim credit for its lastminute brokering. Britain will continue to insist that only the threat of force persuaded Saddam to come to his senses. Meanwhile, the EU as a single entity remains clearly, perhaps even humiliatingly, on the sidelines.





Kofi Annan, Iraqis are still living with the consequences of a clash between their leader and America

## A strange day in barefoot **Baghdad**

m Baghdad

HE CAME at us through the traffic, banging his tiny fist on the side of our car. He could have been no more than four years old, barefoot and dressed in a worn oversize leather jacket with a dozen holes ripped into it. "Give me money." he shricked, banging the door again, staring at me through the glass and wrinkling his eyes to imitate tears. Or was it imitation?

On the pavement an hour later, almost on the banks of the Tigris, three more children attacked, older this time, grabbing at our coats, screaming "money" until we gave them half a dollar; they grabbed our bags for more until we physically pushed them from us, cursing them - heaven help us for their assault.

Would Madeleine Albright, I wonder, have given them a cent? Or would she have leetured them on the iniquities of their leader and the need for UN sanctions, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the immorality of weapons of mass destruction (those, at least, in Iraqi hands, the others being apparently less dangerous).

ilks agenda

It was a strange old day in Baghdad yesterday, one of those mild winter afternoons along the Tigris - dark Mediterranean blue under the February sun - that should presage peace rather than war. Kofi Annan appeared to be promising us the earth, or promising Saddam a clearer definition of UN resolution 687 in return for letting the UN's inspectors into his palaces, but

the Iraqis, almost wearily, accepted the possibility of yet another "Allied" attack. The anti-aircraft guns were back on the usual ministry roofs and a bunch of old American-made Kuwaiti armour – rusting relies from the 1990 attempt to turn the emirate into Iraq's 13th province - was being trucked up a highway out of town.

Just outside Abu Ghoraib, groups of young men - 30 or 40 strong but thin and ungainly figures in old jeans and illfitting shirts - stood to attention in front of smartly dressed soldiers in khaki and black herets.

Saddam's would-be volunteers were being taught how to dress to attention, but they were no Dad's army, more like Dad's kids, a rag-tag bunch of youths listening earnestly to their military commanders in case Iraq's third major war in two decades was to begin in a few days' time. What the West can do from

the air can still be seen on the highway west of Baghdad. If the bridges have been repaired, the road surface is still slashed with shrapnel scars where American and British aircrews thought they were bombing Scud missile trucks in 1991. In fact, they were attacking petrol tankers, often driven by Jordanians. It is still a lonely journey to Baghdad over the desert cupital supposedly threate

Indeed, as I drove past the miles of abandoned trains in

"the whole world".



Photograph: Reuters

1.500 dead.

Baghdad and the empty stations, the words of Messrs Clinton and Blair kept coming back to me. President Clinton called Saddam a "predator of the 21st century" at the Pentagon last week - few Kuwaithighway - I passed no more is would disagree - but than 20 old lorries in four Baghdad is a city gone to seed. hours' driving - and Baghdad its people impoverished, its presents an odd picture of a children begging in the streets, grass growing through cracks in its underpasses and pavements. Even the giant street paintings of Saddam Hussein, the great the great railway yards outside father-figure himself, have fad-

It is a place of lost wealth, courtesy of UN sanctions. And the Iraqis are people living in the ruins of empire, the only palaces still fit for kings owned by the man who has compared himself to Nebuchadnezzar and who objects - very strongat midnight in their leans and baseball hats to check beneath the four-posters.

Even the old marble entrance floor of the Al-Rashid

ed in the sun of seven summers. hotel - which depicts President George Bush in a mosaic - has been partly worn away.

So, as we drove through the cold grey-brown Iraqi desert yesterday, it was difficult to decide which world we were living in. As our four-wheel-drive hummed along the highway, ly indeed, as we all know - to Radio Monte Carlo informed the UN inspectors turning up us of the latest New York Times prediction of "massive raids" in served us Cola last night and the event of Saddam's noncompliance with weapons in- ly I suspect in embarrassment, difference between the Forspection teams, or a possible

So who would be making up the "collateral damage" next time? The Iraqi peasant in his red chequered headdress trying

to kick-start his battered Nissan

on the edge of Baghdad, not far

from an anti-aircraft battery? The kids who begged us for Iragi dinars? Or would it include the moustachioed waiter who who smiled weakly at us, partand admitted: "I would like to go to America.

## Cook stands apart from hawkish US

Chief Political Correspondent

ROBIN COOK yesterday exposed the divisions between Britain and the United States by refusing to rule out more diplomatic efforts to avert war against Iraq, while Washington was adopting a more hawkish approach to the Kofi Annan peace mission.

Britain is expected to call for more time to reach a diplomatic solution today when the United Nations Secretary-General reports back to the Security Council, although the US could press for action after the failure to get Saddam Hussein to sign any agreement.

The Foreign Secretary's determination to exhaust diplomatic efforts before resorting to force also showed up the differences within the Government in spite of repeated denials.

Mr Cook said that the UN Secretary-General would be the "last serious envoy" to visit Baghdad in the crisis, but left open the possibility of more diplomatic efforts, "Last chance is a very big phrase. I wouldn't wish to say when Kofi Annan comes back that is it," Mr Cook said on BBC radio.

But George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence. echoed the more hawkish US and Downing Street line on GMTV. "Time is running out for Saddam and obviously this is a make-or-break meeting." he said.

The Independent has learnt that the differences go beyond Mr Cook to the heart of the Foreign Office over Tony Blair's unequivocal support for Bill Clinton's foreign policy on Iraq. A senior government source said: "It is not about personalities. It is not a split between Robin and the Prime Minister. Robin is reflecting the view in the Foreign Office. There is a eign Office and No 10, but it's mainly about the nuances."

The Foreign Office is anxious about the disastrous effects a war with Iraq will have on Britain's relations in the Gulf region. Some of Britain's friends, including Saudi Arabia, with whom Britain has multi-billion pound arms contracts, have refused to allow their air bases to be used this time for strikes on Iraq by Allied forces, although they were used in the Gulf war.

Mr Cook also suggested that he would not object to President Saddam tying "buttons and bows" to the deal, providing the bottom line was agreed in writing to allow Unscom to get back to work in stopping him developing biological and chemical veapons of mass destruction.

"If Saddam negotiates for buttons and bows to be tied around that package that is something we can live with. I am myself not particularly fussed with where the commas go."

Mr Cook said Mr Annan had scope to reach a deal within the bottom line agreed by the five permanent members of the security council that Unscom should be able to return to its work. "The central point is that Unscom has control of its operations, not Saddam, he said.

He denied that there were differences between himself and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, over a plan to reach a compromise by allowing Unscom inspection teams to be accompanied by diplomats, a socalled "Unscom-plus suits" option, "Our thinking is very much the same. It is claimed that she is against Unscom plus. I think it was Madeleine who invented the phrase 'Unscom plus'. What we can't settle for is Unscom minus," he said.

Mr Blair spoke to Mr Annan by telephone on Saturday night urging him to impress on President Saddam "the importance of Iraq being brought back into line" with UN security council resolutions to destroy his weapons of mass destruction.

INDEPËNDENT INDEPENDENT

## Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

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## Freak power failure puts Auckland out of business

By James Gray of Reuters in Audkland

THE New Zealand power company Mercury Energy said at the weekend that it expected the restoration of normal electricity supplies to central Auckland to take more than a week, after a freak power crisis paralysed

the central business district. Hundreds of businesses are preparing to shut down for the next week and thousands of residents are leaving their homes after the fourth—and final—ma-Jor power cable supplying the inner city failed on Friday night.

Mercury said that only 10 per cent of the central city will have power this week, leaving only emergency services and hospitals supplied with mains electricity. Repair crews were, it said, working around the clock, but only one of the four collapsed cables would be fixed by the weekend.

"It will bring back some

supplies to the CBD. It will not be a normal supply. We will not have a normal supply until at least two more cables are fixed. Early in the following week is the best estimate," said Richard Gibbons, Mercury's general manager of networks.

He said people in the affected area who had power were likely to lose it and those without should not expect it to return for up to seven days. Businesses have been told to close for a week or relocate if they do not have their own power generators, and residents have been told to find alternative accommodation.

The Prime Minister, Jenny Shipley, said that at this stage the government was not getting involved. "It is a contractual matter between the supply anthority and businesses in the downtown area," she told Television New Zealand, which was able to stay on air thanks to

role in the crisis may be in the pay compensation unless it is form of an inquiry. "We need to know how this occurred, and we need to know whether there is anything we can do to avoid it happening again." It was unclear how many businesses

Michael Jacomb, the manager of Power Hire Generators, than 100 generators had been hired or sold. The Coopers & largest central office block, was shutting down for the week.

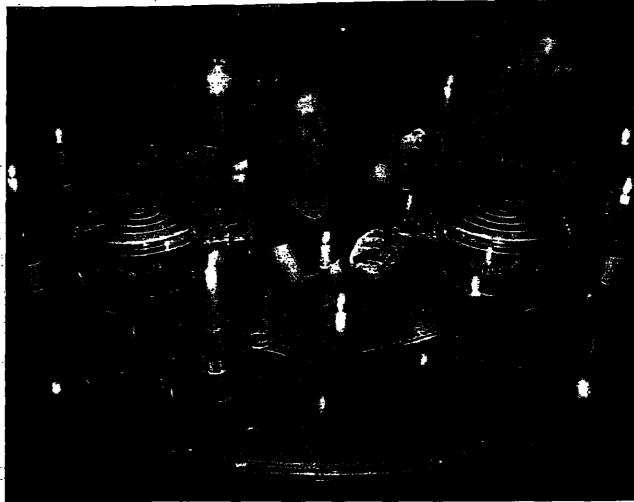
Also closing were Auckland University, where 12,500 students had been expected to attend Enrolment Week over the next few days, and the Auckland High and District Courts.

Furious retailers have called on Mercury to compensate for losses caused by the crisis. But while Mercury accepted responsibility for the power failshown to be negligent.

Its chief executive, Wayne Gilbert, said the CBD network's design standard was the same as for similar sized European cities. Four major cables would open in Auckland today. to the district, rated at a total of 440 kilovolts of electricity, have failed over the past month. said his entire stock of more Mr Gibbons said it would be hard to determine the cause of the failures until parts of the ca-Lybrand building, Anckland's ble were sent overseas for testing, but the long, hot summer had probably contributed.

However, Michael Barnett, head of Auckland Chamber of Commerce, said it was unacceptable that the country's commercial heart had to operate in a "Third World" environment of

"Irrespective of fault, business has been dealt a major blow," he added, "and in time a fair and



Burning up: Bar staff at the Shakespeare Tavern, Auckland, carry on working by candlelight

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## Hong Kong's new warmth for Cool Britannia

Stephen Vines reports from the former colony where, post-handover, there is an insatiable appetite for all things British

all things British.

"In a way it's made life much easier for us," says Christopher Hammerbeck, the executive director of the British Chamber of Commerce.

In the past, he says, "we were seen as being part of the administration" and having special privileges which had long disappeared. Now the Brits are simply foreigners, but foreigners who happen to be well dug

Trade between Britain and Hong Kong rose by 12 per cent last year, covering half a year during which Hong Kong had ceased to be under British rule.

Meanwhile there is evidence of a strong feeling of warmth for absent friends. A survey by the University of Hong Kong's Social Science Research Centre found that 63 per cent of those interviewed trusted the old colonial government, while only 52 per cent expressed trust in the new order.

This may not necessarily reflect love for the British per se; only some 30 per cent said they had faith in the British government, roughly the same number expressing faith in the Chinese government, Hong Kong's new sovereign power.

Another survey, taken a month after this one, found nearly two-thirds of those interviewed expressing the view that things have got worse since the handover. Only 4 per cent thought that things had actually got better.

Maybe the new regime needs more time to find its feet before it generates the kind of confidence which the old colonial order managed to achieve. China, the new sovereign power, needs to work even harder. Hong Kong people in trouble overseas still turn to British diplomatic missions, as opposed to their Chinese counterparts.

Britain, for example, is givng consular assistance to 215 Hong Kong people who have been arrested and detained abroad. This is the double the number being assisted by Chinese missions in any way. The Foreign Office says that those given help in these extreme circumstances are only the tip of the iceberg, as far more Hong Kong people request assistance on a wider range of matters.

Up to 3.5 million Hong Kong people still carry British travel documents, compared to 400,000 who have been issued with China's new Special Administrative Region passport.

The British documents only apply to those born under colonial rule and will gradually dic out. The Government's plan to give full British citizenship to remaining colonial subjects specifically excludes Hong Kong British passport holders.

This has caused some re-

THE LOWERING of the sentment but certainly no lack Union flag over Hong Kong. of interest in things British. A has, it seems, been a boon for recent British educational festival attracted 18,000 visitors, the highest number in four years. The British Council is experiencing a steep rise in demand for its already wellattended English language courses, and, while some 8,000 students were beavering away learning English, a UK Style exhibition, held shortly after the handover, did much to bring Mr Blair's vision of "Cool Britannia" to the former colony.

The British Council rejects any suggestion that the popularity of things British is connected with nostalgia. Renee Fok, the council's spokeswoman, insists Britain is doing well in Hong Kong because it is offering events which are relevant. "The relevance doesn't



The Union flag comes down for the final time in June last year Photograph: Reuters

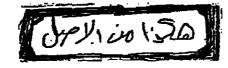
disappear because Britain is no longer the colonial nower." Mr Hammerbeck says that

pre-handover talk of discrimmation against the British has turned out to be quite unfounded. On the contrary, he says, "people are bending over backwards to assure the British community that there is nothing to fear".

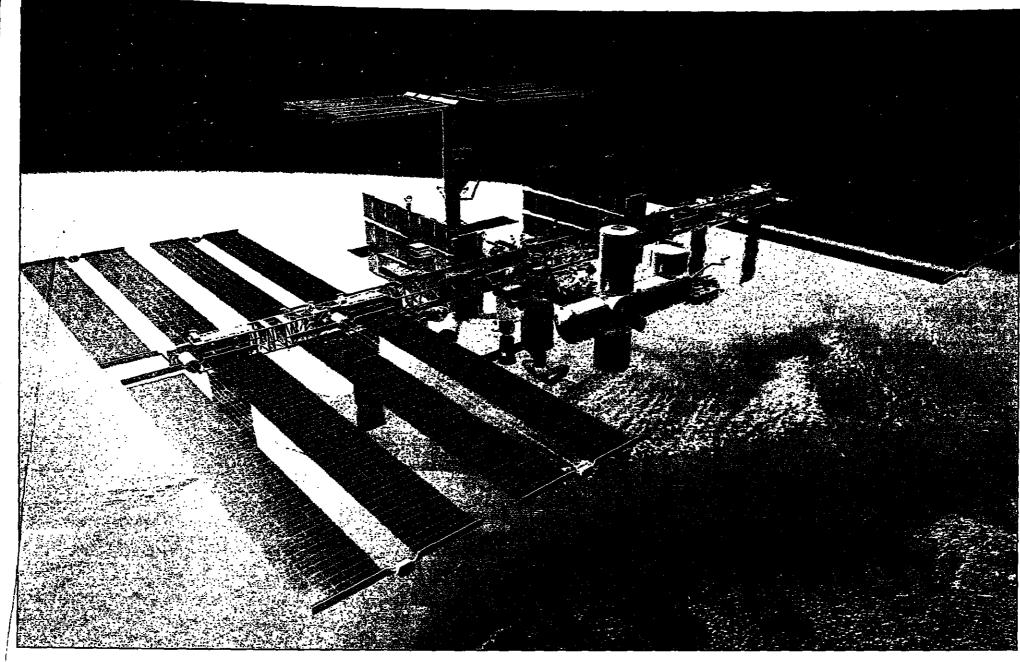
He believes that China's overwhelming aim is to maintain "business as usual". The Labour government in Britain is busy rebuilding relations with China and Peking has shown every sign of being willing to reciprocate,

Meanwhile there seems to be an insatiable appetite for British memorabilia. Hong Kong is suffering a serious coin shortage because so many people are hoarding coins with the Queen's head.

Extremely ratty pieces of government equipment stamped with the crown have sold for impressive sums at auctions and new union flags are being produced in Chinese factories to replace the sold out "genuine" colonial relies which have already been snapped up.



# 2003: a space odyssey



The sky's the limit: How the International Space Station will look when it is completed. From end to end of its giant solar panels, it will be as big two pootball pitches Photograph: Nasa

Inflive years' time, a new International Space Station is scheduled to be in orbit. Charles Arthur asks why

3 Kong's

warmth for

Britannia

Mos people will have heard that the Mir spac station celebrated its 12th, and prohbly least safe, year aloft last week. While year it was: an onboard fire, a crash with supply ship which punctured a crew mode, repeated computer crashes, and hea palpitations diagnosed in one of the Rusan cosmonauts.

Ithat context, it sounds surprising to hea hat within five years, there should be Ranger space station aloft – as big as two fooall fields, weighing 450 tonnes, and conining 43,000 cubic feet of working spa. It will cost more than any collaborate project ever. After the disasters on Miran they be serious?

ou would think not. But the momentupehind the International Space Station prect appears unstoppable. Although - or peaps because - it is the largest and most coolex multinational co-operative science anengineering ever, and will cost between \$5m and \$100bn to build, launch and operate for a decade, it is now seem as inevitable. (If you're keen, you can even get your International Space Station Foundation MasterCard® Credit Card, although it doesn't guarantee you a spot on board - just a nice picture on the front when you use it.)

But the idea first proposed by Ronald Reagan in 1984, for an \$8bn permanent space station, is moving closer to fruition. This June, the first component of the station will be launched from a site in Baikonur, Kazahkstan,

Funded by the US and built by Russia, the control module alone weighs 20 tonnes. The news of its shipment from its Moscow factory in January moved Randy Brinkley. the International Space Station programme manager at the US space agency Nasa, to say happily: "The year of the International Space Station is 1998."

However, some people are asking why they really need another floating toolbox. and how the costs can be justified. Dale Bumpers, a Democrat Senator, attempts every year to halt funding for the ISS: "One shuttle flight to the space station will cost almost as much as the entire budget (\$454m) of the National Institute on Ag-

ing," he complained recently. What will astronauts do on the ISS? First, they'll build it - a slow process which will require 45 assembly flights to put to-

gether its 100 components, with completion scheduled for 2003 - though even before then it will be feasible to carry out experiments, as with Mir.

Once finished, it will provide access for researchers ("from around the world", emphasises Nasa) to permanent, state-of-theart laboratories in weightless conditions.

Current plans are for a crew of up to seven people using five complete pressurised laboratories, with attached external sites for research. It will also be a very useful jumping-off point for human exploration of the Solar System, if that goes ahead,

So what sort of experiments do they plan? Already scientists have begun lining up their plans. One will be a cheap magnetic spectrometer that will search for antimatter - particles with the same weight, but opposite characteristics, to normal ones such as electrons and helium. Others will investigate the effect of microgravity on producing metal alloys, the ways in which cells deteriorate in bones with age, and how to produce a laser-cooled atomic clock 10 times more accurate than any built on Earth.

The ISS's governmental backers are understandably keen to get as many commercial companies as they can on board. But the evidence of years of space travel is that terrestrial companies are reluctant to put their money into pies in the sky: they will pay to put satellites into orbit, especially if they can bounce telephone or TV signals off them, but (despite the urban myth about Teflon) very few inventions have come from space work. And very few companies rush to Nasa with ideas for experiments they want to see done in space.

Even so, backers suggest that once the ISS is built, pharmaceutical companies will be interested in growing protein crystals which form larger and clearer shapes in microgravity than on Earth. The growing emphasis on protein-based work (as a consequence of gene research) on Earth could make that a hit, because it will let the firms make better drugs, tailored to affect proteins whose behaviour is better understood as a result of the space work.

But only the very largest drugs comnies could likely afford to hire that space in space - and they are exactly the ones which will have other methods of investigating promising chemicals on the ground quickly and efficiently.

Such is the cost element that one materials scientist told the science journal Nature "If Rumpelstiltskin took straw into space and spun it into gold, he'd still lose money."

And the spiralling cost of the station is only part of the worry. Privately, Nasa admits that the much-delayed station - which was meant to have been completed in 1994 - may have missed its best chances. Then there is the fact that the ISS has actually been scaled down in size: President Reagan envisioned a much bigger beast than is now being transferred from the drawing boards. Shrinking budgets have hit space programs in every country, and that in turn has meant that the fabric of the station is being paid for in part by money that had been earmarked for facilities. "We'll build a house, but not have any furniture," grumbles

Biomedical Research Institute SBR1. Still, there are some who remain optimistic. At Boeing, Nasa's prime contractor for the ISS. Doug Stone, the programme manager, cites benefits the research will bring to health care back here. There's the value of international co-operation to American foreign policy. There are the possibilities for serendipitous high-tech discoveries.

Lawrence Young, who heads Nasa's Space

But he sees something more too. "The ISS is about people of all walks, all races, many political systems all coming together to reach outside ourselves and accomplish something far greater than any of us could accomplish alone. To attempt what seems impossible, to reach beyond your grasp, to dare great deeds - this is an important part of being human." If fine words could launch a space station, Stone would have done his job already.

The sky as it will appear in mid-March 1998

#### THEORETICALLY...

#### Brush your teeth to stay alive/ Pensioner in a spin/ The future is tiny

Worried about a heart attack? You should exercise, eat right and keep your teeth clean, according to a team from the University of Minnesota. They reckon that the bacteria found in plaque can cause blood platelets to clump up - the first stage toward a blood clot that could cause a heart attack or stroke. Gum disease then offers those bacteria a good route into the bloodstream; and several researchers have reported recently finding bacteria in the atherosclerotic plaque that clogs diseased

coronary arteries.

Dr Mark Herzberg of the University of Minnesota, found that germs taken from dirty and diseased gums and infused into rabbits led io abnormal electrocardiograms and faster heart and breathing rates. Using a different bacterium did not have these effects.

Why? Some bacteria found in plaque and gum disease produce a protein called platelet aggregation associated protein or PAAP. This could be the key to the problem, Dr Herzberg said.

Spun but not shaken: that was John Glenn, soon to be the oldest astronaut, after he had a session in the training centrifuge at Brooks Air Force Base in Florida last Thursday. The whirling arm. intended to simulate the intense gravitational experience of a Space Shuttle launch, generated forces of up to 3g (three times the force of gravity). Officials had an ambulance standing by, "just to make sure", though they also insisted that they were "not at all worried" that the former and future astronaut would have any problems.

Glenn, who is now a senator. was the centrifuge's oldest rider: the former record-holder was aged 64. Taking a ride on the machine is a training requirement for all firsttime space shuttle fliers, to acquaint them with the rigors of launch.

Building nanometre-scale machines could become easier using a technique devised by Israeli scientists, who have used DNA to grow wires just a few nanometres wide between two electrodes. Each electrode had a DNA "anchor" at the end: a "bridge" of DNA which would attach to those anchors was then added, and selected those electrodes to connect itself.

After that the researchers, at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, added positively-charged silver ions, which attached to the negatively charged DNA. According to their report in Nature, the ions were then chemically turned into silver atoms, leaving a silver bridge just 12 micrometres long. It's a technique which could be used to build the chips of the future: "Self-assembly is well-developed in nature," said one researcher. "The whole toolbox is there."

#### TELL ME ABOUT ... life expectancy

ONE of the most misunderstood statistics in general use is that of "life expectancy". If you tell someone that the life expectancy in country A is 43 years, and in country B is 63 years, they tend to think that in country A adults who are otherwise healthy start falling ill with fatal diseases in their fifth decade, while those in country B carry on happily for 20 more years.

That's the easy way to interpret the phrase "life ex-pectancy at birth" - and it's Talso completely wrong.

People often get it mixed up with "lifespan". In fact, the maximum possible human lifespan probably hasn't changed in millennia. It's slightly more than 120 years (the oldest confirmed person in modern times, Jeanne Calmant, died last year, aged

So what does life expectancy actually mean? It's how long, on average, a child born alive in that year can expect to live. Like any average, it's only a single figure, and since it's being used to express the huge variation of human lifespans across a population. it tends to mask the truth.

The fact is that country A in the above paragraph will probably be full of hale and



Oldest: Jeanne Calmant

hearty 60-year-olds. How have they survived? Because the "life expectancy" considers the age at death of everyone in the country - and if you average the the death of an infant before its first birthday and that of a 70-year-old, you get a life expectancy of just 35 years. However, 35-year-olds tend not to die as easily as 70year-olds or infant children.

This is where people tend to trip up on this statistic. In countries with comparatively low life expectancy, it is almost potential lifespans. always due to high infant mortality. Lack of medical care

and malnutrition often conspire to cause many young deaths in developing countries. Paradoxically, this often leads to a vicious circle: because children die young, families try to have many children, hoping that one or two will survive to adulthood. But this stretches their limited resources (such as food, clothing and often health care). which increases the risk that a child will be unhealthy.

In countries which charge for health care, it also increases the chance that they won't get proper treatment. Contraceptive availability usually breaks this loop because it means that having a child becomes a matter of choice, not

Once infant mortality rates drop, life expectancy shoots up. In most Western countries, it is now well over 70. For instance, in the US, the life expectancy for someone born in the 1990s is 74.4 years.

But US citizens now aged 65 can expect to live another 17 years - to 82. And of course there are plenty of centenarians around. But it'll be a long time before our life expectancies approach our

 Charles Arthur, Science Editor

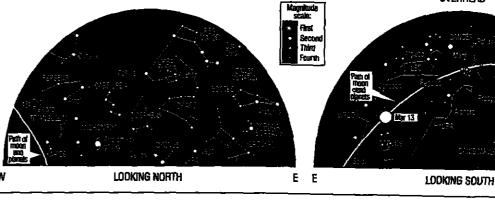
#### THE STARS NEXT MONTH

IF YOU'VE never seen the innermost planet, Mercury, now's your chance. It's never far from the Sun in the sky, and moves pretty rapidly - but in the second and third weeks of March, it will put on a creditable display after sunset. It looks like a bright star, set-

ting up to one and a half hours after the Sun. If you have binoculars, try to find the planet on the evening of 10 March, when it will be a couple of moonwidths north of the planet Mars. The Red Planet is currently only one-tenth as bright as Mercury and rapidly disappearing into the glare of the Sun. (But DON'T look at the Sun with bigoculars.)

After Pluto, Mercury is the tiniest planet in the Solar System - only 40 per cent larger than our Moon, and smaller than Jupiter's moon Ganymede. Orbiting just 58 million km (36 million miles) from the Sun, Mercury feels its gravity very strongly. Like a conker on a very short string, it has to travel very quickly - at 200,000 kph. a hundred times faster than Concorde - to avoid

being pulled in. Only one space probe, Nasa's Mariner 10, has ever flown past Mercury. The images sent back show a heavilycratered world. Like the Moon, Mercury received a thorough



OVERHEAD

battering from debris left over from the building of the Solar System. One severe impact occurred 3.850 million years ago, when an asteroid about 100km across struck the planet. The blast resulted in a huge crater, the Caloris Basin, and sent ripples through the solid rock to create a "builseye" shape of concentric mountain ranges spanning 3,700 km. The impact was so severe that it raised mountains 2km high on the opposite side of the planet.

But Mercury has some features the Moon doesn't. Among these are low ridges that run for hundreds of kilometres across the planet's surface, utterly disregarding the

"wrinkle ridges" are a sign that since it formed, Mercury has been shrinking - due to cooling - so its "skin" has become as creased and furrowed as an old, dried-up apple.

It may have decreased in size even more substantially. Mariner 10 revealed that Mercury has a disproportionately large iron core, making up nearly half of the planet. This is a strong indication that Mercury itself was once very much bigger – perhaps as much as 30 per cent. What made it grow smaller? Possibly the hot gases streaming off the Sun simply boiled away Mercury's outer rocky layers. Or perhaps (more sensationally) in the turbulent

Mercury was struck by a planet almost half its size. The resulting explosion blew off most of its surface layers, and destroyed the other planet altogether - except for its iron core, which merged with Mercury's to form a "supercore".

A few years ago, astronomers bouncing radar waves off the planet discovered that Mercury's poles contain highly reflective patches. This indicates something very smooth - more than any rock could be. Scientists concluded that they are observing deposits of ice. buried deep in dark craters that never get to see the rays of the Sun. On a world whose daytime temperature reaches 350C. underlying terrain. These early years of the Solar System, it is an astonishing find.

OVERHEAD

At the beginning of March, the planet Venus rises a couple of hours before the Sun, although this is reduced to an hour by the end of the month. It reaches its greatest brightness this month (magnitude 4.5), and if you have a telescope, you'll notice it shrinks from a large crescent to a smaller "half moon" phase as the days progress.

Jupiter is concealed in the Sun's glare. Saturn is still visible in the western sky for a couple of hours after sunset - but it closes rapidly in on the Sun as the month ends.

Diary (24-hour, GMT)

5 March 0841: Moon at first quarter
13 March 0435: Full Moon 20 March 1955; Vernal Equinos (First day of spring) 21 March 0738: Moon at last quarter 28March 0314; New Moon 29 March 0200: British Summe

Time begins (clocks go forward)

— Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest

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# Walking tall, talking loud



**DEBORAH ROSS** TALKS TO **JANET** STREET-PORTER

JANET STREET-PORTER lives in this amazing house in the London district of Clerkenwell. It's stunning. Steel spiral staircases. Diagonal windows. Doors of fat, dark wood with thick bits of rope for handles, "Gosh Janet," I say somewhat breathlessly, having climbed the long, external spiral staircase, "this is fantastic. Is it Wimpey or Barratt?" She looks at me stonly. "Neither. It's architect-designed." Janet Street-Porter is 6ft tall. But even if she were 3ft she'd somehow make you feel stupid and small. Inside, the house is all magically upside-down, with the kitchen in the roof, even the garden in the roof in the form of a concrete wedge jutting out. There are purple, triangular tables, pink benches, peach, colour-washed walls and, downstairs in the ley magnificently converted into a bed. Eager, naturally, to claw my way back from that initial faux pas. I tell her that, as everything on telly these days seems to be about vets or interior design, she should think about building a series around, say, neutering toms on that purple table while talking us through the colour-washing of the

She laughs. I am redeemed, but I suspect only marginally. She says she's got a piece to write for the Sunday Times. Then she has to go to Channel 4 to take part in some discussion programme. Plus, she's awaiting an important call to do with a new show for ITV. "You can't stay long," she says. "I've got work to do." Her glottals stop all over the shop. But I can't work out how to best write this down. No "T" is ever pronounced. Got becomes "go," but it isn't "go", as in "ready, steady, go" because it's sounded to rhyme with "got", only without the "t". See how complex it is? You'll just have to imagine it.

Physically, Janet Street-Porter is immensely impressive. It's not just the height or that spectacularly crowded mouth, it's also her figure. No waist to speak of, she goes straight up and down, and most of it's made up of the fabulously long legs which, today, end in these fluffy, slip-on trainer things. No, they are not slippers, she explains. They are part of Nike's new "postexertion footwear" range. Janet, even at 51, remains a very happening, slipper-scorning sort of person. Her energy and stamina are known to be quite something.

After various incarnations – presenter,

producer, BBC executive, managing director of the cable station Live TV - she has gone back to presenting with Coast To Coast, a seven-part series which begins on 27 February on BBC2 and essentially follows Janet as she walks across the south coast of England, from Dungeness to Weston-Super-Mare, then through Wales, from Cardiff to Couwy, a trip of more than 500 miles. She has always been a keen walker, yes. She's a former president of the Ramblers' Association. She owns a second home in Yorkshire, goes up most weekends, and walks and walks. I am not a great walker myself. I mean, if God had wanted us to walk, why did he invent cars and roads and McDonald's drive-ins? I am still having trouble breathing from that staircase. But if there is one thing more tiring and dull than going for a walk yourself, then it might be watching Janet Street Porter going for a walk.

In the opening episode, she promises

to deliver "glimpses of post-election Britain" as she tramps across the countryside. Unfortunately, these glimpses never really come about. Instead, it's Janet traipsing though rape. Janet in a poncho in the rain. Janet discussing routes with other sad anoraks. Janet being joined by Chris Smith somewhere in mid-Wales, slipping in mud, and getting a dirty bottom. Chris doesn't bother to help her up. (What does this tell us about post-election Britain? Fall on your burn and New Labour doesn't give a fig?) What does she see in this walking nonsense anyway? "You know, when you start off, there are all your thoughts in your head. Have I called soand-so? Have I left bread in the bread-bin in Yorkshire? But as you walk you stop thinking about those things." So you find cleansing in some way? Yes, she does, she says. Plus it's relaxing, too. The only thing that ever riles her while she's walk-They're dangerous on the road and they ruin beautiful countryside. Plus, people just seem to stay inside them, watching telly." Isn't that a bit snobby, Janet? "Oh. don't give me that rubbish, PLEASE!," she cries impatiently . "Independent readers don't own caravans."

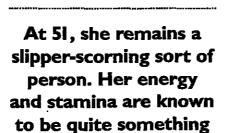
The thing about Janet I would most like to work out is: has she been over-rated or under-rated over the years? Is she a great deal cleverer than most people think? Or was she lucky to get as far as she did? She came within a squeak of the Controllership of BBC2. You don't get there by fluke alone, I'm sure. But, still, what did she ever really achieve as a telly executive? There was Network 7, which she produced for Channel 4, and which was truly innovative and rightly won lots of awards for originality. But after that, when she was head of "yoof" at the BBC? Rough Guide and Reportage were fine for their particular audiences, but the one chance she was given to do something mainstream, she came up with the truly appalling flop that was Style Trial. Subsequently, her time at Live TV was not a great success. Eventually, she was packed off with a pay-off reputed to be between £100,000 and £200,000. For various reasons, this wasn't entirely her fault. But, still, when Nightmare At Canary Wharf – a fly-on-the-wall documentary about her time there - went out, I remember being quite shocked by how childish she seemed. It was all "I want" and "I want it NOW!" and "don't give me fucking excuses. Just

go do it!" Janet is clever, I think. She may even

Janet Street-Porter: Friend of the countryside, sworn enemy of caravanners everywhere. be very clever. But she is only clever in a her house. "I'm not talking about THAT!" totally here and now. Nike post-exertion footwear sort of way. She is wholly of the moment, and if her moment doesn't happen to be anyone else's, then she's not really offering very much. She will not answer any questions about her past."I don't want to go over old ground." she says. "The other day, the editor of a soon-to-be launched magazine rang me. They wanted me to write a piece on the Seventies. I said: 'You're starting a new magazine, and you want me to write about something that's 20 years old? You should be com-

What is happening out there now? Well, I'm interested in psychic vam-

missioning pieces on what's happening out



pires." Beg pardon? "People who suck out your ideas, then go off and use them themselves. She is thinking of writing a book on

the subject. Of course, Janet could be refusing to talk about her past because she just doesn't want to. For all her loudness - loud clothes, loud diatribes against male, mediocre, middle-aged BBC executives she is quite a private person, I think. "No one really knows me," she says at one point, for no particular reason. But, still, her behaviour, on the whole, does seem to fit in with someone who has always largely lived, and is still living, an unexamined life

She's been married three times. The last marriage, in particular, was a disaster. It seems to have been a spur of the moment thing with a young salesman whom, it is said, she eventually had to pay to get out And the future? It's not something she

ever thinks about either. She spends as she

earns. She doesn't do pensions or shares

or investments. Recently, on a trip to Jamaica, she bought a piece of land because she just fancied it. In some ways Janet is, if not admirable, then at least enviable. I, too, would love to live remorselessly in the present. I tell her as much. I tell her I worry about everything. The past. The future. You name it, I'll have a worry about it. She looks at me

pityingly then says that, if my worries wake them down there and then. "Then, when you look at them in the morning, they'll So, always ambitious, yes. Eventually, she seem piddling."

You've done that, have you?

And what would those worries be. I ask. I hope for something interesting here but. annoyingly, lose her again,

"Oh, you know, the usual things." Where's my waist gone? Why's my skin getting all loose. Did I leave that bread in the

I change tack and ask her of she's ever been badly hurt by anything? "Oh yes, like I really want to share that with the readers of The Independent," she says mockingly. I'm not telling you." She is beginning to get on my nerves now, so I persist. Did it hurt when you tried to flog off your old clothes at Christies, and no one bought them? "Nah. I only did it so I could have double glazing in the bedroom." Did it hurt when Kelvin Mackenzie was editor of the Sun, and he published a picture of you next to a horse, and asked readers to vote on

who was the uglier? "Can't remember." Janet, do you ever cry?

When was the last time? "When my dad died. I think. I can't re-

She was born Janet Bull (She has kept the name of her first husband, the photographer Tim Street-Porter) Her mother, Cherrie, was a school dinner lady. Her dad, Stan, was an electrician. She grew up in Fulham, until, in her early teens, her par-

ents moved to the suburb that is Perivale. She was a model pupil. She got 11 O-levels and four A-levels.

She has always been terrifically ambitious. This only comes out when, for some reason, we get onto our mutual love of Scrabble. She adores it, but is a horrible loser. Once, she was playing with someone on the beach. The moment she started to lose, she took all the letters and threw them, cursing, in the sea. This seems to connect with her childhood and, before she knows it, she is remembering something almost interesting. "I joined the Young Conservative Quiz Team when I was a kid, not bebecause I wanted to do the quizzes and win.

She is wholly of the moment, and if her moment isn't anybody else's, then she's not really offering much

may even have become ambitious beyond

her abilities. Certainly, she never seems to have been without a bloke. I had even read that she first became engaged at 14. True?

"I can't remember." Certainly, when there haven't been husbands, there have been lovers. Musicians. Style people. A rap artist called Normski or Sidski or something. Does she find it hard to not have a.

You once said relationships were like gambling chips. You start off with a big pile, then bit by bit the chips go, and the pile gets smaller and smaller until it's time to move on.

"Did 1?"

YES! "Can't remember."

She has never had children. I ask tar if she thinks she'll ever regret this, if ony fleetingly. She gets cross. "Would you ak a bloke that question? Would you ask CFe Anderson?" Yes, absolutely, if he did't have kids. She softens slightly. "If I hd children, where would they go?. " she say. She then adds: "Am I frightened there vil be no one there to look after me in my diage? No! I'm going to move into a grat home with my friends. We il go about he

Photograph: Glyna Griffiths

nutters in our wheelchairs.' She went to architectural college, ht gave up after the first year because she ret fellow student Piers Gough - the architet the man at Wimpey being busy - and kny she'd never be as good as him. She turnd to journalism, writing for Petticoat Majzine, then the Evening Standard, before ing on to telly and team-presents light-weight topical shows. She was made head of BBC "yoof" in 1988. She says t BBC "loved me' but that didn't stop the marching her up to a Portakabin in Ma chester when the department was relocate Did she mind? "I commuted," she say

She says she ultimately left the BBC because she was repeatedly passed over: the bigger jobs, but because she stopp enjoying it. "The job wasn't creative Someone would come in with an idea, you have to take it to the channel controlle ... I felt trapped. ..

What, I wonder, is her own favourite to ly programme? Casualty, she replies. I s I can't stand it. The shot of the rotating say The shot of the thumb. The anticipation knowing that the thumb and the saw are ing to meet, and the thumb's going come off the worst, if it doesn't come off alter gether. I can't bear it. She says: "Oh, no, love knowing the paths are going to cross I love Charlie, whose always staring into space. What is he thinking of? It's like watch. ing a ballet, the way it's all interwoven."

I think my not liking Casualty might have been the last straw. Whatever ground I may have made up, I went and lost it. Really, I have to go. She's got all this work to do. I am shooed back down the steel, spiral staircase which, I'm sure, didn't come flatpacked from Ikea. I find I'm quite tired by the time I get hope.

## Mother Teresa would have stuffed the duvet down my throat



DINAH HALL

IT WAS the half term from hell. In my more cheerful moments I imagined that Saddam Hussein was using our house as target practice for germ warfare. But when things got really bad I even wondered if an invitation to stay with the Conservative parenting role model from Modem Times might have been

preferable. All my plans for a culturally enhancing, activity-packed week (well, we were going to see Flubber, anyway) were laid waste when the youngest came down with what sounded like a close relation of consumption, "Hacking" is not the word to describe the cough that

goes with this flu-like virus that has been cutting classes across the country to sizes usually found on remote Hebridean islands: this is a cough that could demolish 20-storey buildings, that propels a child upright in bed at 20 minute intervals throughout the night.

Just as I and my eldest son joined the phlegm chorus half way through the week, my busband conveniently found a job to do in New York. ("Should I go Air India or Virgin?" he rang from his office to ask me.

. A Simple enough question, you think? Ha, no, he was trying to put the onus of responsibility on me to choose the plane which wasn't going to crash. Not that we are paranoid or anything.) But his absence, I reflected, between nocturnal lung evacuations, was probably a good thing, because however much you love someone, you actually want to murder them in the night when they can't stop coughing.

If Mother Teresa had been lying beside me in bed (now there's a spooky thought), even she would have been tempted to stuff the duvet down my throat ("Stop it! Stop that cough right now I bellowed at my poor little fiveyear-old in the middle of the fifth sleep-deprived night: thank goodness there was no Modern Times camera crew around.)

As half the country has already been in the grip of this particular virus, there has been no shortage of medical tips. "Try Potter's Cough Remover" advised a sophisticated publishing executive. It was only when I read the label that I remembered this woman is only sophisticated two days a week - the other five days she lives within divining distance of Glastonbury. Black Cohosh, Skullcap, Pleurisy Root and Skunk Cabbage are some of the more picturesque ingredients - and surprisingly delicious It is too: the addition of chloroform and ipecacuanha

adding an authentic Victorian flavour to my Emily Bronte impersonation. Anyway, I think it is doing the trick, though it

does seem to be removing my lungs along with the cough. There's only one thing worse than being ill in a hypochondriac household and that's not being ill. The 11year-old has been solicitously tucking the thermometer under his little sister's tongue but more in Olympian than Hippocratic spirit. He's just checking to make sure no one beats his record temperature of 106 degrees. "You're not as

ill as I was," he keeps crowing. Our first nanny, who looked after him until he was one, and

who is now an educational psychologist (the two events being entirely unconnected), assured me when she came to pick up the girls to take them for a bridesmaids' fitting, that this sort of competitiveness is natural in large families. In or-

der to persuade my clinging five-year-old to go off with this unfamiliar woman, I had told her Virginia worked with "problem" children - meaning she probably had some good stories up her professional

"But I haven't got any problems" she protested Indignantly, "No darling" I said, trying to think what the other awful family on Modern Times

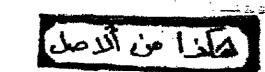
would have said, "but I expect" you're angry with Mummy for being ill aren't you. I mean, this note I've found pinned up on my office wall...

If she wasn't so good at phonics I might have hoped it was just a random assortment of letters - FUC TO M HSE. But clearly she was expressing - and of course, that's got to be healthy, even if it is not perhaps in the language I would have chosen - her inner

& DEA.

"Oh God, Mum" she said in exasperated tones "don't you. even know about emergent. writing? Miss Blanchard could read that. It says friends are coming to my house'."

Tage.





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 $\mathfrak{g}: \gamma_{i} \in \mathbb{N}$ 

n my throat

## **Marie-Louise** von Franz

MARIE-LOUISE von Franz "eternal youth", an increasing- is an important satellite recounts. She was a first-rate and compassionate analyst. She was the closest colleague of C.G. a strictly provisional life which Jung, with whom she worked for over 30 years, and contributed a great deal to his major works, particularly his monumental studies on psychology and alchemy. She was also the author of a number of books including a whole collection on the psychology of fairy tales, and was a leading authority in this

her books on fairy tales is their readability. She possessed few theoretical formulations, and her direct and colloquial style of English (not her mother tongue) makes her writing easily accessible and as fascinating to read as the tales themselves. Through it, people from all walks of life have been made aware that these timeless tales are not the sole preserve of children and are struck by how relevant they are to their daily lives.

The first of these books, Problems of the Feminine in Fairytales (1972), was published in 1972; it was followed by An Introduction to the Interpretation of Fairytales (1973), Shadow and Evil in Fairytales (1974) and



Von Franz: fairy tales

several others. They are still best sellers in the psychology world and seem set to remain so.

Among the most distinguished are Number and Time (1980), on the connection between psychology and modern physics; a detailed scholarly work, in collaboration with Emma Jung (Jung's wife) on the symbolism of the Grail legend; Aurora Consurgens, a translation and exposition of an early alchemical text ascribed to St Thomas Aquinas; and Jung, His Myth in Our Time (1972), a biography, elucidating Jung's essential

Von Franz also wrote a landmark book called The Problem

KEN-BAM BAM" WEEKES

made his name in the last series

before the Second World War.

bat and wicket-keeper, broad-

chested and hawk-eyed, a prodi-

gious hitter who had first

appeared for Jamaica in 1938

and who won his touring place

as much because he made a use-

ful deputy for the first-choice

garded matches against the

West Indies as an opportunity

to experiment, rather as Eng-

land regarded Chile in the foot-

ball match at Wembley the

West Indians who made their

débuts in the first Test, over

three days at Lord's, while Eng-

land named such fringe players

as Arthur Wood and Harold

Gimblett and gave a first cap to

the Derbyshire fast bowler Bill

Weekes scored 20 and 16,

not enough in a flaky order that of the new ball. Perks being hit

Weekes was among four

In those days England re-

keeper Ivan Barrow.

week before last.

the 1939 tour of West Indies to England. He was a left-handed

Ken Weekes

ly common visitor to the consulting room, who lives his life as if his time has not yet come; results in a refusal to commit to the moment, be it a job, a partner, or anything to do with the here and now. This is often accompanied by a fascination with flying or mountain climbing, the symbolism being to get as high as possible and as far away from the mundanities of ordinary life. She also published several other books on What is exceptional about alchemy, dreams, classical mythology and the psychology

of projection. Marie-Louise von Franz was born in Munich of Austrian parents, but spent most of her life in Switzerland. Even in primary school she had a reputation for a formidable intellect. She was, for example, unwilling to accept the tenets of the religious education taught at her school. She so exasperated the priest who was teaching her class that he insisted upon giving her private lessons. The upshot, according to a repentant von Franz, was that he completely lost his faith and left the priest-

She went on to attend the University of Zurich and reached a stage where she had to choose between a doctorate in classical languages or studying medicine. She had by now started analysis with Jung and told him about a dream that indicated to him that she should larly for Jung, who from then on got all the Greek and Latin texts he needed for his work translated for the price of free analytic sessions.

When von Franz was 41. Jung permitted her to take on her first client. The client was concerting: "Work very hard on a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Von Franz was natually eager to make a the client's. In this way everysuccess of her first case, but the thing is kept open and alive and There are many other books harder she tried to prop the there are no set rules." her on a variety of subjects. woman up the worse she be- That is except perha came. In despair she turned to Jung who advised her to let the

client have her nervous breakdown. Von Franz backed off. and stopped straining to help, and the woman soon made a full She said that this was the most important lesson she ever

had on therapeutic technique, showing her the limitations of willpower and the Ego, and the role of the Unconscious as the centre of the personality.

She likened this to Galileo's discovery that the Earth revolved around the sun, not vice ary 1915; died Küsnacht, Switzerof the 'Puer Acternus', on the versa. Like the Earth the Ego

was over-dependent upon

George Headley, to keep his

place. Headley became the first

player to score a century in each

innings of a Lord's Test yet his

team lost by eight wickets after

Hutton and Compton had

added 248 for the fourth Eng-

land wicket in not much more

Manchester Test, which was

drawn, but, having scored 146

against Surrey at the Oval he

was recalled for the last Test, at

hamshire, another England ex-

periment, had the misfortune to

be bowled first ball, by Tyrell

Johnson, but England's score of

352 was looking handsome

when West Indies slumped to

ly, but 11 in one over from Reg

Perks, another trialist, settled his

eye. With Vic Stollmeger he

added 163 in 156 minutes, 50

runs came off the first four overs

Weekes appeared, nervous-

Walter Keeton, of Notting-

Weekes thus missed the

than two hours.

the Surrey ground.

volving around a much larger and more powerful centre. Galileo's discovery got him excommunicated by the ruling establishment, and Jung has suffered a similiar fate at the hands of the scientific establishment.

For Jung, the structure of the psyche's centre was made up of what he called "archetypes", the fundamental building blocks or anatomy of psychic life. Like every other part of the human anatomy the "archetypes" were common to all people; this commonality he called the Collective Unconscious.

Some years ago von Franz predicted that, like Galileo's discovery, future generations of researchers would discover these self-same psychic structures without any reference or acknowledgement to Jung. This she felt would be only right and proper. For the fact that they made this discovery independently would prove that Jung's work was not at all hypothetical but was based on the objective facts of psychic life.

In the last few years a whole new breed of evolutionary psychologists have indeed rediscovered these self-same structures, and rechristened them in such terms as "mental modules", often without any reference to Jung's work.

Working on this archetypal level von Franz soon realised that, for her at least, the only effective and decent way to work choose classical languages. It with a client was to work on the was a brilliant choice, particu- material of her own life, both inner and outer - in other words to set her own house in order.

Her model for therapy, therefore, which she imparted to all her pupils, was not at all modern or even post-modern. It was as simple as it was disyour own psychic life, and hope for a synchronistic happening in

one rule. Von Franz counselled that it would be wrong to become a Jungian. If you do that, you miss the whole point of his psychology, which was to become the one unique individual you are meant to be.

Everyone who knew Marie-Louise von Franz, or her work, can see to what remarkable degree she achieved her individuality.

Chuck Schwartz

Marie-Louise von Franz, analytical psychologist: born Munich 4 Januland 16 February-1998.

for another 21 in one over, high

into the deep. West Indies drew

the match, Weekes never played

in Test cricket again, thus re-

tiring with with a dazzling bat-

His career average, playing

his last game for Jamaica in

1948, was a more realistic but

neverthless worthy 40. He af-

terwards returned to his native

United States and spent his lat-

er days working in New York.

Weekes paid little attention to

the coaching manual and his

stance was once described bg

Douglas Jardine as "insolent".

He was born in America, of

Barbadian father and Ja-

maican mother and had he ar-

rived 80 years later, a southpaw

batter of such prowess, Ken

Weekes would have signed for

the Yankees and died a multi-

Kenneth Hunnell Weekes, cricketer,

born 24 January 1912; married (six

children); died New York 9 Febru-

Derek Hodgson

ting average of 57.



Male in the 1930s: a simple, solid, archetypally hard but fair style of play

#### George Male

1930s, George Male was the best right-back in England, some said the finest in the world, and to the majority of British football fans in an era before the expertise of overseas players had impinged on the national consciousness, it amounted to the same thing anyway.

The last surviving regular ember of Arsenal's imperious pre-war team, which lifted four League titles and the FA Cup in the space of six seasons, he captained both club and country and was renowned for his sportsmanship and modesty, even in an era when such qualities were not in short supply.

Male's name will be linked forever to that of Eddie Hapgood, his full-back partner at Highbury and another man to skipper the Gunners and England. Like so many famous sporting pairs, they offered a sharo contrast both in character and in the way they went about their business. Where Male was unassuming and calm, favouring a simple, solid, archetypally hard but fair style of play, the more ambitious Hapgood was a volatile extrovert, all elegant poise and smooth technique. They complemented each other ideally.

George Male was born in West Ham and represented the Hammers at schoolboy level before taking a job in insurance and playing his football for a local amateur team, Clapton of the Isthmian League, However, his potential was spotted by Arsenal and he signed amateur forms for the north Londoners in November 1929, turning pro-

fessional six months later. His progress was rapid and in December 1930 he made his senior début, at left half, in a swingeing 7-1 home victory over Blackpool. That season was to end with the Gunners winning the League Championship for the first time in their history, and although Male made insufficient appearances to qualify for a medal, he was soon to make up for it with a

vengeance First, though, would come disappointment when an injury-induced team reshuffle secured him a place at Wembley for the 1932 FA Cup Final, only

BY COMMON consent in the for Newcastle United to triumph thanks to a famously controversial goal. Next came a crucial cross-

roads in the Male career. Hitherto the solidly-built Eastender had been a competent but hardly outstanding wing-half, a fact recognised by his manger, the inspirational but often intimidating Herbert Chapman. At for his characteristic coolness the outset of the 1932/33 cam- under extreme provocation. paign, Arsenal had a problem at right back and the great man summoned Male to his presence, announcing portentously: "George, you are going to be a right-back". Then, without awaiting a reply, he proceeded to work on the modest 22-year-old's self-esteem.

Many years later Male recalled: "By the time I got out of that room, I wasn't merely convinced that I was a full-blown right-back, I knew without doubt that I was the best rightback in the country!" It was a typical example of Chapman's mesmeric power over his players, illustrating a key constituent in the benevolently despotic personality of one of the most successful soccer bosses the game has known. In this case, Chapman's wisdom in decreeing a change of position was evident immediately. Male settled into his new role as if born to it and within a few months had been called up for an interna-

Come 1933/34, arguably the finest English club side of the first half of the 20th century was approaching its prime. That term Male didn't miss a match as Arsenal, employing the theninnovative "stopper" defensive method and with bounteously gifted forwards such as Alex James and Cliff Bastin a joy to behold, won the first of three successive titles. In 1936, they lifted the FA Cup, with Male performing majestically in the 1-0 final victory over Sheffield United, and two years later took yet another championship.

tional trial.

On the international front, Male had received his first cap in 1934, one of seven Gunners involved in the so-called "Battle of Highbury", in which England defeated the World Cup holders Italy by three goals to two. The match was for the unworld because, at that time, England didn't deign to enter the tournament, instead allowing the foreigners to fight it out amongst themselves before challenging the winners. In the event it was a brutally physical affair and a supremely trying baptism for Male, but one from which he emerged with credit

Thereafter he played a further 18 times for his country, including a spell as captain towards the end of the decade, and but for the Second World War, which began when Male was 29 and at his peak, it is likely that his caps total would have been considerably higher.

After the conflict, during which he served with the RAF in Palestine, Male returned to first-team duty and although he managed only intermittent outings, having reached a grand old age in footballing terms, his eight games in 1947/48 made him the first man to figure in six title-winning campaigns. When he finished, in a 8-0 trouncing. of Grimsby Town that May, he had represented the Gunners in 314 senior matches (without scoring a goal), in addition to 181 games for the club in wartime competition.

Reaching the end of his playing career did not signal Male's departure from Highbury, however. He became a coach, guiding first the juniors and then the reserves, a firm but kindly and avuncular figure who rejoiced in the affection of his young charges. After that he earned further respect as a shrewd talent-spotter - the 1970s star Charlie George was his bestknown discovery - and he went on to serve Arsenal in various administrative roles. He retired in 1975, living in Yorkshire, then joining his son in Canada.

The last of Chapman's magnificent side to stop playing, and the last to die, George Male was never the most feted of Gunners, but he was one of the worthiest.

Ivan Ponting

Charles George Male, footballer born London 8 May 1910; played for Arsenal 1929-48; capped 19 times for England 1934-39; married (one official championship of the son); died 19 February 1998.

#### **Erich** Mückenberger

WHEN arraigned before a mentation of the Stalinisation of the SED. This meant weedbility, as a member of the ruling Politburo, for the deaths of the Berlin Wall victims, Mückenberger called the trial "victors" justice". He was subsequently allowed to withdraw from it on the grounds of ill-health in August 1996. The East German Communists had always claimed to head a sovereign, independent state, but at the trial they argued that they had been under orders from Moscow to maintain the Berlin Wall and, if necessary, shoot would-be escapers.

Many of those who defend the East German Communist berger, and virtually all of the others, were expelled from the party (SED/PDS) at its special congress in January 1990. At that time the Communists still ran the East German state (DDR). Had the DDR continued to exist they would probably have been tried for misuse of office and imprisoned. As it is. Mückenberger, and most of the other surviving SED Politburo members, have been permitted to spend their remaining days as pensioners.

Born in the industrial town of Chemnitz in 1910, Mückenberger grew up in a Social Democratic, working-class milieu. He completed his apprenticeship as a machine-fitter and enrolled in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) youth organisation in 1924. Three years later he joined the SPD and worked as a functionary of the Reichsbanner, the party's paramilitary formation. After the Nazi seizure of power in 1933 he carried on illegal political activity. Arrested in 1935, he spent several months in Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In 1938 he served a tenmonth iail sentence. Although a known opponent of the Nazi regime he was called up for war service in 1942. After returning from the war in 1945 he rejoined the SPD. He supported its merger with the Communist KPD in 1946, and was appointed secreranks of the SED serving as first secretary of the party in Saxony (1948-49) and Thuringia (1949-



Mückenberger: unswerving Photograph: Popperfoto

52). Already a member of its Central Committee in 1950, he was also "elected" a candidate member of the Polithuro.

Mückenberger owed his success to his enthusiastic impleing out unreliable elements, above all his old Social Democratic comrades, and unswerving support for the SED leader Walter Ulbricht. He did not wa-

ver during the crisis of the work-

ers' revolt of June 1953 and was rewarded by being promoted to full membership of the Politburo in 1954. As SED secretary for agriculture and forestry (1953-60), he was responsible for the forced collectivisation of the land in 1959-60. This helped to produce food shortages. The collectivisation was a factor in the growing flight of farmers leaders forget that Mücken- and others to West Germany, which led to the building of the Berlin Wall in August 1961.

Although Mückenberger had supported Ulbricht during the SED leadership crisis of 1958, he was ready to support the change of leadership, which resulted in Erich Honecker replacing Ulbricht in May 1971. He gave up his job as first secretary of the Frankfurt/Oder SED organisation, a post he had held since 1961.

He then added to his many offices. From 1971 he became chairman of the all-important central control commission of the SED, a body responsible for party membership. From 1978 he was president of the German-Soviet Friendship Society, and from 1980 chairman of the SED group in the Volkskammer, the DDR parliament. He withstood the fall of Honecker in October 1989, when Egon Krenz and his fellow plotters were attempting to avoid civil war at the top.

The demonstrations for freedom increased throughout the DDR in the weeks that followed. In one of his last reports the security chief. General Erich Mielke, reported on 23 October on the "anti-socialist" demonstrations in Leipzig, Dresden and Mückenberger's home town Chemnitz (then still Karl-Marx-Stadt). Hundreds of thousands took to the streets. In Berlin thousands of SED members demonstrated in Party (SED) in Chemnitz. He to demand renewal of the leadthen rose rapidly through the ership and a fresh start. Mückenberger and most of the other Politburo members had no choice but to resign on 8 November 1989.

> The following night saw the opening of the Berlin Wall and all DDR frontier crossings. Krenz himself stepped down with the entire Politburo on 3 December only 50 days after replacing Honecker. Krenz. Honecker, Mielke, Mückenberger and most of the other leaders were expelled from the SED on 21 January 1990.

Unlike Honecker, Mielke and others, Erich Mückenberger was at least spared arrest by the SED-led government he had reluctantly supported. Only his erstwhile comrade Willi Stoph, had survived longer in the jungle of the Politburo

**David Childs** 

Erich Mückenberger, politician: born Chemnitz, Germany 8 June 1910; died Berlin 19 February 1998,

#### **Lord Granville of Eye**

added to Malcolm Baines's and Tam Dalyell's obituary of Lord Granville of Eye [19 February], writes Alan Deyermond.

Edgar Granville is one of relatively few MPs to have been the recognisable central character of a contemporary novel. Roger Fulford's The Right Honourable Gentleman (1945) tells of the rise and fall of Augustus Stryver. who is elected Liberal MP for a hitherto safely Conservative East Anglian constituency, becomes a junior minister in the National Government, and is

brought down by sexual scandal. The events of Stryver's career coincide only in part with

ALITERARY footnote should be Granville's, but the character is recognisable, and Fulford confirmed to me, a few years after publication, that Granville was indeed the model. Fulford knew the still ambitious Granville, unrecognisable in the older man so moving evoked by Tam Dalyell,

The Right Honourable Gentheman is still a good read: not, I think, in the top rank of this century's political novels (alongside William Cooper's Disquiet and Peace, 1956; Douglas Hurd and Andrew Osmond's Scotch on the Rocks, 1968; or Chris Mullin's A Very British Coup, 1982), but much above the average, and better, even, than C.P. Snow's Corridors of Power (1964).

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

SWYCHER: In London, to Sally (nee Farmer) and Nigel Swycher, a son, Matthew John, a brother for Emma Scott and Adam Thomas.

#### **DEATHS**

MORRIS: Clawson Mary (nee Francis) died suddenly on 15 February aged

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Edward, Patron, hosts a concert given by the London Mozari Players, followed by a dinner, in St James's Palace.

51. Service and interment at St Thomas-a-Beckett Church, War-blington, Havant on Sanurday 28 February at 10.30am. Flowers to Car-rell's Funeral Service, 4 Town Hall Road, Havant POS LAN. SEABROOK: Suddenly on 18 Febru-ary in Norwich, Mike, aged 47 years. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Ser-vices, 01603 760787.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICES SANDERS: Colin. CBE. A Memorial

Service will be held in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. High Street. Oxford on Thursday 12 March 1998 at 2-30pm. Enquiries to R.V. Mallett, 01865 74450.

For Gazette, telephone 0171-293 2011.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Remounts the Ousen's Life Guard at

#### Forthcoming Engagements Mr C. Vanni

and Mis R. Pye The engagement is announced between Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Pye, of Oakley. Buckinghamshire, and Cristiano, son of Signor and Signora M. Vanni of Vellano.

#### Birthdays

Mr Bill Alexander, theatre director, 50; Mr Jim Cousins MP, 54; Lord Ezra, former Coal Board chief, 79; Mr Peter Fonda, actor, 58; Miss Sylvic Guillem, ballerma, 33; Mr Nicholas Kenyon, controller, BBC Radio 3, 47; Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College, 56; Mr Anton Mosimann,

cuisinier and proprietor, Mosi-mann's, 51; Mrs Sandra Osborne MP. 42; Lord Tugendhat, chairman Abbey National, 61.

#### Anniversaries

Births: George Frederick Handel, composer, 1685; Meyer Amschel Rothschild, banker, 1743. Deaths John Keats, poet, 1821. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander Akimetes. St Boisil or Boswell, St Dositheus, St Milburga or Mildgytha, St Polycarp of Smyrna, St Serenus or Cerneul the Gardener and St Willigis.

#### Lectures

London School of Economics Victor Klima, "A People's Europe -Goals and Challenges of the Austri an EU Presidency", 12 noon.

#### CASE SUMMARIES: 23 FEBRUARY 1998

The following notes of judgments were prepared by reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Abuse of process UPS Ltd v Lewis CA (Kennedy, Mil-

lett UI) 29 Jan 1998. It was not an abuse of the Tax process of the court to apply to Schulenfrei v Hilton (HMIT); ChD the High Court for summary in a case which would un-

the small claims arbitration procedure if it was found that there was a triable issue. David de Jehan for the appellant; the respondent appeared in person.

(Neuberger J) 10 Feb 1998. judgment under RSC Ord 14 An agreement between the taxpayer and the Revenue undoubtedly be transferred to the der s 54 of the Taxes Manage- licitor) for the Crown.

county court to be tried under ment Act 1970 was of a contractual nature. The issue of an erroneous assessment for a "nil" amount did not amount to an offer which was capable of being accepted by the taxpayer, and even if it had been, mere inaction would not have amounted to acceptance. Peter Sheridan QC, Roben Verables QC,

Amanda Hardy (Lipkin Gorman) for the taxpayer, Timothy Brennan (IR So-

Co Ltd; CA (Nourse, Brooke Lij, Sir Brian Neill) 13 Feb 1998. Expenses deducted pursuant to a calculation by the income minus expenses method for life assurance business could not also be deducted under the Sched D calculation of an insurance

Johnson (HMIT) v Prudental Assurance

company's total profits. Peter Whiteman QC (Lovell White Durrant) for the texperer, Christopher McCall (IR Solicitor) for the Crown.



**EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT** DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. **LONDON E14 5DL** TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435

There are two good arguments for praising the Government's plans for the millennium Dome. One is that it is going to happen, so we might as well look on the bright side. The other is that it is a much more testing intellectual challenge than going for the easy, negative cynicism which so disfigures modern journalism.

Too bad. We came to mock and stayed to, well, mock some more. We neither expected nor liked Tony Blair's decision to save the Dome last year, but we hoped we might be proved wrong. We thought that perhaps Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson had a cunning plan.

But with each passing day shortening the countdown, it has become more and more obvious that the Prime Minister's decision was an error. His announcement tomorrow, unveiling some of the things that are going to be in the Dome, seems unlikely to reverse this process.

In a way, it cannot, because it will not reverse the cart-before-horse nature of the the Dome as architecture came before a decision as to what it was for.

The Dome will be home to a year-long show so fuzzily-defined it is only called an "Experience". An Expe rather than an Expo. A theme park without a theme. A mind-boggling multimedia spectacular" (P. Mandelson again) that will boggle the mind about as much as a trip to the Science Museum or a spin on a 233MHz computer with a good graphics card.

Then there is Baby Dome, the 6,000seater building outside the main structure which Mr Mandelson amounced yesterday. What is that for? Live performances, apparently. It seems that, as soon as anyone started to work out what to put in the Dome it turned out they needed a different building altogether.

But back to the first argument. The big Dome will be built. Indeed, the skeleton of the structure is already up. Should we not try to make the best of it? Yes, of

project. Mr Blair cannot undo the fact that course. The "Experience" could still widen the debate about our future as a nation: how we will live in the information Age, our values, our place in the world, Let us hope it will be more serious of purpose than we fear, and that we can learn from the mistakes of throwaway Disneyfication.

But it is also quite important to understand why £400m of public money is being spent on something hardly anybody wants. Even if people like it when it opens, there would always have been other more popular - and more worthwhile - things on which the money could have been

It was, after all, Mr Blair who made the point most forcefully that National Lottery proceeds are public money, when he allocated some of them to health and education services under the slogan "The People's Money". Just to underline the point, the Chancellor floated the idea at the weekend of spending a similar amount of lottery dosh on free TV licences for pensioners.

So why did Mr Blair, who had played hard ball with the Conservative Government when it appealed for bipartisan support, give the go-ahead? Mr Mandelson. now appealing equally unsuccessfully for bipartisanship, wrote in December: "It will provide a huge boost to jobs and the economy from visitor spending and tourism."

It was the negative reasons he gave which were more interesting. "All eyes will be on the Greenwich Meridian on 31 December 1999. It would have been a telling comment on ourselves if all we had to offer was bunting and 300 acres of contaminated wasteland."

In fact, all eyes are not on the Greenwich Meridian but on its opposite, the International Date Line on the other side of the world. What has really caught the eye has been the laughable antics of various Pacific Islands as they try to move the Date Line and so be first to see the sun rise in a year with a lot of zeros

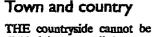
But it was clear that national pride was at stake. Mr Mandelson went on to ask: "What would the rest of the world have thought of a country that decided the event

was just too big for it to pull off?" It was the fear of not having anything to show at a time when the world would be going silly over a round number that prompted Mr Blair's decision. It was not a good reason, and it demonstrated a lack of confidence at the heart of his rhetoric of "national renewal".

Mr Mandelson's attempt to co-opt the Tories should prompt hollow laughter we can be sure that were it to succeed, New Labour would take the credit. But if the project is a "national event" and not an issue of party politics, as he insists, then he should take Lord Richard Rogers' advice, and appoint a non-politician as ringmaster to oversee it.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

#### **LETTERS**



divided into neat little compartments - some good, some bad, as your leading article (20 February) seems to suggest. The Countryside March organisers recognise that, regrettably, there is an urban-rural divide. We seek to promote a wider understanding of the problems the countryside faces so that town and country can work together.

Hunting will be the focus for many, but most hunting people are also country people, and many are farmers. We all recognise the desire for more access, but believe more can be achieved by voluntary agreement than enforcement. Seeking consultation and consideration is not selfish: maintaining a viable, working countryside is as important to many urban people as it is to rural dwellers.

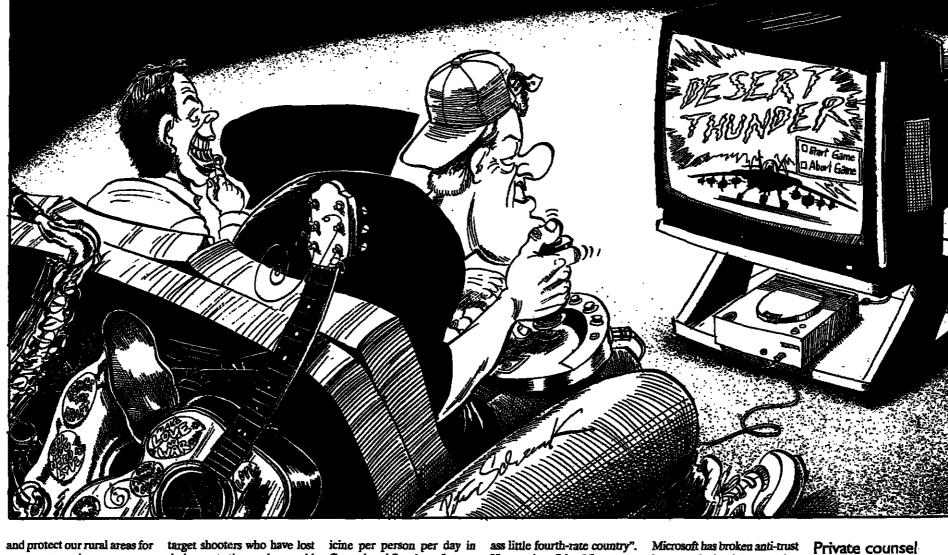
Tony Blair has stressed his desire to govern "one nation". Recognising that the countryside is part of that nation, the Government may need to seek compromise solutions to problems that The Independent presents as either/or.

ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON Chief Executive Countryside Alliance London SE11

YOUR call to think about town and country together is well targeted. They are two sides of the same coin and nobody will benefit from trying to drive a wedge between them. Better protection for and wider access to the countryside will allow everyone to emov the best of the rural environment. And curbing the sprawl of housing over farmland will benefit the regeneration of our towns as well as our landscapes and wildlife.

Yet you risk driving a new and unnecessary wedge between meeting social and environmental objectives. The shortage of social housing is due to lack of funds, not land on which to build. Local planning authorities have earmarked land for hundreds of thousands of new homes. The problem is that housing associations and councils do not have the resources to provide the social housing which is needed and cannot protect this land from being swallowed up for market housing.

Town and country, people and the environment, would all benefit from a different approach which provides the homes we need in ways that improve the quality of urban life



everyone to enjoy. TONY BURTON Assistant Director (Policy) Council for the Protection of Rural England London SW1

I AND many other urban dwellers will be supporting the Countryside March, not out of particular sympathy for any individual faction represented, but because of a fear for the way democracy appears to be head-

ing in this country. Lobby groups use the media to engender a public fear many are prepared to misrepresent and lie about their targets, as they believe their cause is so great that the end justifies any means - it all sells more television time and newsprint. There is a telephone poll or two, using simplistic or loaded questions, and a demand for instant legislation to solve a problem that may never have existed. What chance for any minority to survive?

Yes, there will be fox hunters on the march. There will also be target shooters who have lost their sport, those who would choose to eat beef on the bone, and many other diverse groups and individuals who simply want to pursue their own interests rather than forming lobby groups to attack others.

PGILLETT Famborough, Hampshire

#### UN mission to Iraq

A \$5.3bn oil-for-food programme to Iraq sounds impressive but would do little to alleviate suffering ("Annan offers oil-for-food deal worth billions", 20 February).

Deducted from the previous \$2bn deal under UN Resolution 986 were war reparations (30 per cent), UN operations (5 to 10 per cent), costs of pipeline (5 to 10 per cent), and humanitarian aid earmarked for the Kurds of northern Iraq (15 per cent). If a similar pattern is followed this time, about \$2.2bn would be available over six months. This amounts to about 58 cents' worth of food and med-

Central and Southern Iraq. Adequate technology and chemicals for sanitation and medical infrastructure will, of course, continue to be disal-

lowed. One would anticipate a small reduction in the death rate, but it will continue to be of tragic proportions.

MARK WALMSLEY Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

IN THE first Gulf War, sanitised for the public by its Hollywood-style title "Desert Storm", the RAF suffered disproportionate losses. After further years of hedge-hopping practice here, I expect it will suffer them again. Who will justify such losses, and all the others from vaccinations and chemical and biological weapons and

friendly fire, to the widows? The very concept of a limited war needs to be questioned. As Gamal Abdel Nasser said: "For a war to be limited depends on the other side". And President Johnson once observed that the US must succeed against "that raggedy-

icine per person per day in ass little fourth-rate country". He was describing Vietnam. PETER HILL Tanworth-in-Arden.

#### Microsoft monopoly

Warwickshire

IT IS not entirely accurate to say that increasing returns are simple economies of scale ("The simple idea that lies behind Microsoft's aim to rule the world", 19 February). Increasing returns mean that a product is more likely to succeed simply because it is more widely used. The implications of this argument for the Microsoft case are that the company becomes a "natural" monopoly, and will retain this position irrespective of

market or government pressure. What Microsoft does matters. There are too many stories of predatory or unfair conduct to ignore and the position should be properly investigated, if only to clear the air. Unfortunately the present case brought against the company by the Department of Jus-tice need not establish that

Microsoft has broken anti-trust law, merely that it is operating outside the terms of an agreement concluded in settlement of an earlier case.

approach America will take to

this "national champion". The view widely held by American anti-trust lawyers is that Microsoft will win its case, at which point the company may find itself under increasing pressure in other jurisdictions. The danger is that the company will either be subject to a plethora of actions and standards around the world, or will go unchecked

America is resisting moves to introduce competition law into the World Trade Organisation remit, but a global system, which would allow a single considered approach to truly international issues, may be the most appropriate solution to cases such as Microsoft's. MARK FURSE Senior Lecturer in Law University of Westminster

ANNABELLE THORPE's ar-

ticle on counselling ("Mourners in a queue to be Meanwhile the rest of the comforted", 18 February) world must wait and see what rather missed the point: it's free or cheap counselling that's not easy to come by, and why should it be? The public, quite rightly, expects counsellors to have had extensive training. their own therapy and to continue their professional development and supervision throughout their working life. All this has to be paid for, and, as a counsellor myself, I want

to make a living too. The NHS pays me just under £20 per session to work in GP surgeries. Patients may wait some time for an appointment. as they may do to see any other specialist, but, like any other specialist, they can see me privately much sooner if they pay my (very reasonable) £25 fee. Counsellors offer a professional service, and we expect a professional fee in return for it. **RUTH HARRISON** Ayisham, Norfolk

#### Global politics

TARIQ ALI makes the all-toofrequent error of dismissing the environmental and animal rights movements as singleissue politics ("What's the matter with our dumbed-down youth?", 16 February).

The struggle for animal rights is seen as part of a huge picture involving all forms of cruelty and abuse. Through animal rights, I became involved with human rights campaigns. These interests have led to my involvement in the environmental movement, which far from dealing in a single issue - is concerned with all human activity: war, demography, education, birth control, susar tainable development, pollution, agriculture, famine relief et al. At its core, of course, is its concern with our ability to sustain any form of life on the planet.

Local political activity does not automatically imply global ignorance or indifference. And any form of political activity against injustice should be supported - especially amongst the young. Who knows where it might lead? KEVIN MARMAN Herne Bay, Kent

#### Freemasons' motto

DAVID WALKER ("In defence of Freemasonry 21 February) likens the Freemasons (a all groups of like-minded and harmless people. He overlooks their unique motto, "Aude, Vide, Tace" - "Hear, see and be silent". This motto - which must have a practical effect is inimical to Parliamentary democracy, to the rule of law, and to the proper administration of justice. That is why Freemasons are so much mistrusted and disliked by the rest of society. LEO HAYNES

#### Northwood, Middlesex Let us chant

J SUMNER's equation of the Lord's Prayer to a football chant is rather hollow (letter, 20 February). I have yet to meet a football fan so ardent that he would consider kneeling down before bedtime and whispering a terrace song to himself.

Considering their great beauty and antiquity, it is more accurate to compare such prayers to religious icons or frescoes. To destroy them through neglect would surely be a tragedy. ALF LAWRIE Barnet, Hertfordshire

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## Your cut-out-and-keep guide to the week ahead – whether there's a war or not



KINGTON

As we wait to hear whether the balloon is going up in the Middle East, it would make it all a lot easier for us if we knew what ex- just on the Kurds, but on his own people. actly is going on, which is why today I have scrapped the column which was originally intended for this space (a fitness feature called "Get In Shape The John Prescott Way") and am bringing you instead a basic briefing for the week ahead.

If, at all times, you can bear the following facts in mind, everything else will seem

clear by comparison. 1. Saddam Hussein, the President of Iran. is a psychopath without a conscience.

2. Do not take my word for this. I am quoting from what John Major, ex-Prime Minister, said in Parliament last week. And he should know.

3. He worked closely with Margaret 4. So. Saddam Hussein is a psychopath without a conscience.

5. He is the sort of man who not only develops chemical weapons but uses them, not 6. This is psychopathic, conscience-free behaviour all right.

7. I mean, what sort of man would en-

courage the use of death-dealing chemicals on his own people? 8. For instance, encourage his own farmers to use organo-phosphates until they

were driven to death, disease and suicide? 9. Well, John Major, actually. But I digress.

11. It is established that Saddam Hussein is a psychopath with no conscience, and if we have ever watched a Hollywood film, we know what to do with that kind of psychopathic killer.

12. You ruthlessly hunt him down and kill him without burting anyone else. 13. Unfortunately, the Americans can't do that, because their weapons system can

only hunt down and kill everyone else without hurting Saddam Hussein. 14. So instead, they are trying every diplo-

matic move possible. 15. Unfortunately, diplomacy is proba-

bly the worst possible approach to a psychopath, as anyone who has ever tried pacifying an armed and desperate serial killer by offering him a five-year wheat and iron ore trade agreement will testify.

16. In the long run Bill Clinton may have to listen to his military advisers. 17. What counsel will his advisers offer?

18. They will say: "Mr President, sir, we have an awful lot of military capability which is setting obsolete and which we need to update. Instead of scrapping it, why don't we drop it on Saddam? Then we can modernise our arms AND keep the military-industrial complex in work. We NEED a small war, sir. You owe it to us."

21. These other options include: sending in American planes to destroy Iraq's cable cars and cripple their skiing industry. which we know from test runs in Italy they

can do with pinpoint accuracy; 22. Sending in the US ice bockey team to trash the place.

23. Forcing Saddam Hussein to stage the next Olympics and thus bankrupt Iraq. 24. Bombing Saddam's millermium Dome.

25. Incidentally, a man was arrested in the US last week on suspicion of possessing anthrax and being about to start biological terrorism.

26. He has now been released because the "anthrax" was in fact identified as a harmless vaccine used on cows.

27. So maybe the Americans have got it wrong and Saddam is making cow vaccine. 28. But if they are right, Saddam Hus-19. Bill Clinton may not take this advice. sein must be stopped, because no one na- to Lord Annan.

20. He may examine his other options. - tion should be allowed to stockpile such a vast store of weapons.

> 29. Except of course the United States. 30. Who do actually need a vast stockpile of weapons in order to be able to bomb other nations who have a vast stockpile of arms to which they are not entitled.

31. That's it, really. 32. World opinion is so outraged by Saddam Hussein that the US's stand is being unanimously supported by the rest of the

world, though only Britain has said so, 33. We are ready to go in and bomb this psychopath to kingdom come.

34. Unless, of course, Kofi Annan can hammer out an agreement with him, in which case Saddam Hussein is not a psychopath at all, but a great and responsible statesman, and we shall all breathe a lot easier until the

next time this farce is played out. 35. No, I don't think he is any relation

## Celebrate Cool Britannia, but don't ignore the rust



DIANE COYLE **OUR WEAK ECONOMY** 

Britannia's new "cool" is a thin coat of paint hurriedly slapped over the rusting hulk of the economy inherited from the Conservatives. At any rate, this is the implication of the "growth, employability and inclusion" conference hosted by Gordon Brown and David Blunkett for their fellow ministers in London yesterday - and it is probably an accurate conclusion. But Brown's and Blunkett's gritty realism about the need to modernise the British economy risks being drowned out by a cacophony of hype about the swinging creative industries and all the rest of what could be called "Dome-land".

To give the Chancellor his full due, he is dourly impatient of any chat about Cool Britannia. He is more in tune with the following passage from Labour's election manifesto: "Many of the fundamentals of the British economy are still weak. Low pay and low skills go together: insecurity is the consequence of economic instability; the absence of quality jobs is a product of the weakness of our industrial base; we suffer from both high unemployment and skills shortages." This is as true now as it was a year ago when Labour politicians started drafting it.

Unemployment is indeed at its lowest now since 1980 - if you forget about the people who have been defined out of the headline figures. Remember them and the improvement in the numbers at work has been far less impressive. As Mr Blunkett said at the weekend, there were only 5,500 unemployed young people in 1965, when he was 18, whereas now there are 118,000. He listed a whole catalogue of dispiriting thenand-now statistics.

genuine flowering of activity in cutting-edge, creative industries from fashion to biotechnology, from film to software. But the creaking bulk of UK industry lags massively behind the US in what pundits like to describe as the "new economy". Few hi-tech companies of any description over here have grown big enough to warrant a stockmarket listing. Those that have are certainly not thriving like their American cousins, the Microsofts and Genentechs. Many of our designers, actors and architects still have to seek work abroad. Britain's best-known entrepreneurs, such as Anita Roddick and Richard Branson, have been in business for more than 20 years. There are newcomers, but they are either not fashionable enough to have caused a blip on the radar of public consciousness, or they are deeply trendy but their businesses are still tiny.

For Britain has never been any good at nurturing start-up companies beyond the seedling stage. Research has shown that the survival rate for new businesses in Britain lags behind such uncool countries as Austria. Belgium and Switzerland, with only one in a hundred surviving as long as six years. The real injection of new blood into the economy has been the foreign transfusion of inward investment

The Chancellor and the Employment Secretary are right therefore to emphasise the importance of basic repair work such as creating jobs for disaffected youths and going all-out to tackle the web of problems that add up to social exclusion on the worst estates in our cities - even if the price is chucking a future Noel Gallagher off the social security benefit that is fertilising his creative

Yet they should not be too dismissive of the "cool" hype, however annoying and trite some of it has been. There is truth in the idea that economic prosperity will in future lie in the success of weightless, intangible activities like high technology, finance and all the creative activities at the heart of Cool Britannia. What's more, Britons seem to have a natural aptitude for many of these activities. Our scientists, like our fashion designers, are among the world's greats, and the problem is capturing the raw talent and turning it into real economic success.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the eminent industrialist, pointed out this aptitude some years ago. He said: "You've only got to look at the people who are written off in this country and see their ability to teach themselves to play the guitar or use computers, to do a host of things outside the system." The problem was not the people but what happened to them. "Get them inside the bloody system, and it becomes smart not to win, smart not to improve." You only have to compare a crowd of enthusiastic primary school children to a sullen mob of adolescents shambling out of their secondary schools to see the truth in his com-

The Brown and Blunkett tendency in the Government should pin Sir John's observation above their desks and re-read it whenever they are tempted to pen another speech about lifting educational standards or improving training for the unemployed. Modernising Britain is about improving basic literacy and numeracy, but it is also about encouraging the imagination and creativity that will form the key resource in the most successful economies. This cannot be done by injecting the contents of a centralised curriculum in pre-ordained doses into young minds. Nor will detailed reform of the tax and benefit system, important though it is, guarantee future greatness.

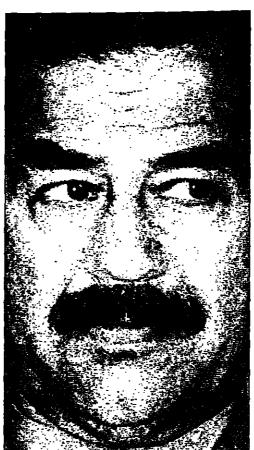
There is a lesson for this Labour Government in Harold Wilson's passion for the white heat of technology. In its way this, too, was a Cool Britannia campaign - and Wilson in his mackintosh was as deeply uncool It is true that this country is enjoying a as Tony Blair in his sober suits. But technology fever in the late 1960s served a dual purpose. It enabled the Government to encourage important national industries at the same time as moving the Labour Party's own thinking on industrial policy away from the command and control model of nationalisation and planning dating from the

> The gritty realists in this government should understand that the Cool Britannia hype is not a mere distraction from the real business at hand. It serves a genuine purpose in reshaping people's ideas about which paths will lead to the necessary modernisation of Britain. It will divert attention from the dead-end of rust-belt romanticism, the nostalgia for defunct heavy industries, and focus effort on thriving areas of business where the UK could enjoy a big advantage.

> You can't help suspecting that Gordon Brown is one of the people who would have preferred The Full Monty if Ken Loach had directed it. The Chancellor is to be admired for his social conscience and sensitivity to the vast problems he rightly identifies, but he will have to loosen up a bit if he wants to go down in history as a great reformer. Modernising Britain needs the honesty about past failures but it also needs the hype about future successes.

## Tony and Bill: stop war-mongering, it's time to start living with Saddam









#### **ANDREW** MARSHALL A FRESH START IN THE GULF

A policy on the verge of a nervous breakdown is never a pretty sight. Circles won't square any more: sums won't add up; and, by the by, people get killed. We saw it in Bosnia three years ago, and we are seeing it today. Whatever happens in Baghdad or Washington or New York this week, policy towards Iraq has broken down, irretrievably, and the pieces won't fit back together. So let's start again.

America will, if there is a deal with Iraq, doubtless protest that this is only the result of its firmness. That is a deeply dubious proposition; in reality, Kofi Annan and his skillful diplomacy will have saved the day. If force is used, the failure will be all the worse; the result will not be the end of Saddam, nor of his weapons, nor of any of the basic problems that make this the most likely

venue for a major conflict. Can we really persist with this style of confrontation? Is it worth it, to put the world on the brink of a catastrophe in order to enforce UN resolutions when scant attention is paid to so

many others? Have we no other way of achieving our goal which is, after all, supposed to be regional security, peace and the avoidance of war?

There have been two Gulf wars in the last 20 years, and there's still time to fit in a third if we all want to. For the last month, that has apparently been the intention of the Americans, with Tony Blair ably following up the rear. We have assembled aircraft and ships enough to blow the most expensive holes in the desert ever seen. The result of the first Gulf War - a long, drawn-out and unspeakably violent clash between Iraq and Iran - was a bloody stalemate. For a short time, Iraq was still regarded as the bulwark of Western security against the mad mullahs of Tehran, and Saddam and his representatives were once more welcomed to the tents of the arms salesmen. Iraq felt it had received too little recompense for its role in protecting the Arab nation against the Shia onslaught from the East; it pushed things too far, invaded Kuwait, and the rest is history.

But it's unfinished history, because the solution put in place in 1991 resulted in just another stalemate. The framework of western policy after the Gulf War, set by America, was to contain both states, to enforce disarmament of Iraq, and to bring together the Arab states of the "coalition" into as permanent an alliance as possible. All this is crumbling into dust.

Whatever happens this week, there cannot be a second Desert Thunder. Once this confrontation is ended the threat of force will never be as credible again. Just as America realised, in time, that the constant threat of air power in Bosnia was degrading its most valuable asset - credibility - so it must, surely, realise that the same thing is happening again in the Gulf.

There are plenty of other reasons why this policy must be ditched. It commands little or no support from the Arah "allies" in the Gulf; the latest crisis has served merely to underline the cracks in the "coalition". Nor are these states inclined to go along for much attach to the dirty little secrets

That means military action on a much grander scale even than 1991; and no one is prepared to countenance that. The sons and daughters of America and Britain will not be allowed to die in a futile and bloody conflict to clear the

way to Baghdad. Short of war, of course, is "disruptive action," or "covert operations," or whatever other weaselly term one wishes to

of the intelligence agencies.

But the evidence is that at-

tempts to overthrow or under-

mine Saddam are doomed to

failure before they start -

bloody failures that blow up in

the faces of those who plan and

er option is to start to deal with

Iraq, to bring it out of the cor-

ner and start to treat it as a "nor-

mal state. That will seem

abhorrent to those who see it as

a uniquely abnormal state, one

bent on destroying what passes

for peace in the Middle East.

So what else? The only oth-

implement them.

which tortures and kills its own people, actively prepares for war. and invades its neighbours.

But we aren't dealing with Iraq because it's nice; we're dealing with it because there's no other option. Short of turning it into a car park with those wonderful precision-guided munitions, we don't have any other reasonable course of action. That doesn't mean we have to learn to love Iraq, or its ruler: we simply have to deal with it, instead of shutting it in a box and pretending we can make it go away.

Over the last month, the threat of military action has been substituted for policy: a rank mixture of adrenaline and aviation fuel has taken the place of thinking. Military force has its place; but it can't solve political problems, and the Iraqi imbroglio is fundamentally a political question.

America will find it hard to think itself out of the current policy, defunct though it is. While the US was threatening military action, Britain followed along, gallantly bringing up the rear despite the increasingly evident strains within the Government. If confrontation is now off the agenda. Britain should (for once) take up the lead. We can, and should point the way towards a new way of tackling Saddam - one that does not require the threat of an annual Armageddon to be effective.

#### The threat of military action has been substituted for policy. A rank mixture of adrenaline and aviation fuel has taken the place of thinking

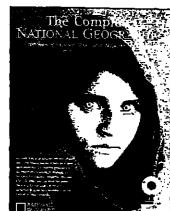
longer with the containment of Iran. Saudi Arabia, the linchpin of any regional security arrangement, would not agree to host any attacks on Iraq, and it is also cosying up to Tehran once again. Europe wants to get back into the Iraqi markets again, and it also wants to reap the benefits of oil and gas in central Asia, which means cooperating with Iran. Containment is, for all practical

purposes, bankrupt. It is also morally bankrupt. Since 1990, we have been blockading Iraq in the futile belief that this would encourage political change. It hasn't. The policy has failed, and the cost has been to the Iraqi people. This can't continue: it is morally wrong, and politically futile.

There are, realistically, only two options now. One is to insist that Iraq is a permanent and lasting threat to the security of the world, and treat it as such.

## INDEPENDENT

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## I can't see, but all I want to do is be a film-maker



**DAMON** ROSE BLIND LOVE FOR TV

> After three post-university years of rejection letters from TV production companies, I vividly remember crashing down on the sofa with my head in my hands one day and contemplating a thought that had never occurred to me - maybe I should give up trying to become a TV maker. Hot on the heels of that thought came a rush of panie: how can I possibly do anything else?

All I actually know about is TV and media. If I got a job in anything else I'd soon be shown up as a fraud who had made some kind of hopelessly tragic life compromise. Look at that sad lonely figure in the corner," they'd say, pointing at me. "He could've been something in TV, he's so sharp and creative, but was never given the break. Go over to him, humour him, have a chat. He'll beguile you

with tales of that Nineties' docusoap phenomenon. Then, maybe, you'll want to escape before he starts his monologue about postmodern shot-framing and camera techniques."

'Challenge me Damon," I can imagine you, the reader, saying. "I really want to believe you can make television programmes, but I don't know how. Throw some ideas my way, let me chew over them for a bit, help me understand what it's like to have once had sight, then to lose it but still somehow manage to create programmes for a medium that I'm not sure blind people even watch."

So I lost my sight 14 years ago; this doesn't mean I lost the ability to think visually and it also doesn't mean that my visual thoughts are stuck in a bygone era where Space Invaders, Legs & Co and Rubik Cubes are still the height of "cool". I built on what I already knew and my visualizations developed and grew from there onwards.

To explain this internal visual development I can only draw parallels with my awakening appreciation for the opposite sex. About six months after going blind, I suddenly realised out of nowhere that women had rather attractive curves. I'd always kind of known this but had only started to appreciate it post sightloss (damn it). Similarly, as I grew older and thought more, I began to build on my existing visual knowledge of television and started to think more about how, where and why pictures fitted together, how edits were covered, how visual continuity is maintained etc. My likes and dislikes changed, I began to understand concepts like, for instance, the tastefulness of minimalism. When I hear about new camera and graphical techniques like those employed by, say, Network 7 and This Life, I

seek to update my understanding by boring the hell out of people around me by making them go through video tapes, freeze-framing every few seconds while I ask questions and draw pictures in the air. I'm already working on my next film. I've

done some research, booked in some contributors, have found two locations; it's going to need some creative thought to liven it up visually. The subject matter is fabulous, but it's my job to enhance it by representing it visually and interestingly without resorting, for instance, to the cliche "making a cup of tea" cutaway shots.

I am attached to the Disability Programmes Unit (DPU) which has a unique "access team", working alongside it. On a shoot, I use one of the workers to describe what the cameraperson has framed in view. Armed with that knowledge I can then direct the action, putting my stamp on the filming

There are few sexier things in life than being wanted for your mind and your creativity. Unlike radio and print media, in television you have a multi-layered opportunity to create words, sounds and pictures, appealing to two of your senses and goodness knows how many parts of the brain. It's an all encompassing experience. You can symbolise, juxtapose. skew-laterally, create illusions and tell new

It's very important that disabled people get the opportunity to make television. There are 6.5m disabled people in the UK who need to be represented by disabled film makers who won't perpetuate the stereotypical hero/heroine or tragic victim approach to disability. Although I may be the first blind person to be attending one of the BBC's Directors' courses, I am pleased to say that I am not the first visually impaired person to have directed television. At least half a dozen have gone before

So many incorrect assumptions are held about blind people and disabled people generally. In my first week at university I remember walking through the common room in halls, whipping out my phone card, sticking it in the phone and starting to dial. From across the room a fellow student remarked: "My God, you can use a phone ... that's absolutely amazing". Others have said that they don't know how I can even put one foot in front of the other, not being able to see and all. One of the most bizarre encounters was with a man I was sharing a trough urinal with in a pub one night.

"You're not a blind man," he said. "Excuse me?"

"You can't be blind," he replied. "Why?" I asked. After a long considered pause, he said: "Because you're just standing there having a piss like a normal bloke".

Assumptions are made about us, bizarre assumptions, damaging assumptions that are reflected by the fact that over 80 per cent of visually impaired people are unemployed. It would be good to think that being catapulted onto the front page of the Sun last week has perhaps ultimately raised awareness of what risually impaired people can do. The big irony, however, is that the majority of blind people are probably blissfully unaware of this media debate because newspapers are somewhat inaccessible.

Damon Rose's first film item will be broadcast on Tuesday night at 7.30pm in From The Edge. BBC2's disability magazine programme.

## G7 criticism leaves Japan under pressure to boost economy

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

JAPAN came under stiff criticism from other members of the Group of Seven (G7) leading economies at the weekend for failing to do enough to boost its flagging economy and financial system. The tensions spilled over, unusually, outside the private meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the G7.

Analysis expected the forthright attitude of the other delegations to send the Japanese currency and stock market lower this week. The markets were already underwhelmed by the recent Japanese economic package of 2 trillion yen (£9.6bn) in tax cuts and additional support for the banking system.

Jonathan Coughtery, a currency strategist at Standard & Poor's MMS, said yesterday: "The markets were hoping for the G7 to come up with something substantial, and obviously that hasn't happened. I would anticipate a big run up on dollar-

yen in the first part of the week." The dollar went into the G7 meeting at a one-month high of ¥127.80, climbing more than 1 per cent on Friday after the Japanese government disappointed financial markets by

est economy-boosting package. Analysts also expect further falls in the stock market. In the past week the benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 34.77, or 0.21 per cent, to 16,756.24.

failing to include any tax cuts

or new spending plans in its lat-

The official G7 communique issued late on Saturday said: "In the view of the IMF, there is now a strong case for fiscal stimulus to support activity during 1998." Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, chairing the G7 meeting in London, said: There was a good deal of support for that statement."

The Chancellor said the other G7 countries welcomed the measures the Japanese government had announced last Friday, but added: "Recovery will require continued action."

Earlier, Robert Rubin, the US

Treasury Secretary, said the need to restore stability in South-east Asia made strong domestic demand growth important in all G7 countries, but especially Japan.

The meeting did agree on the need to avoid an excessive weakening of the yen, which some analysts fear could exacerbate the trade imbalance between Japan and the US. The statement said the G7 had agreed to monitor the currency markets and "cooperate as appropriate", a conventional shot across the bows of the foreign exchange markets.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, sent the markets a signal that this would be an especial concern in the coming months. He said: "I think the concern was as much about the prospective imbalance in the world economy as a result of Asia looking forward, rather than anything to do with the situation immediately."

On a separate issue it was the Germans who were isolated, as the other six countries agreed to speed up debt relief for the world's poorest countries. The side with the Germans on this



Japan's markets are expected to fall further this week in the wake of the G7 meeting in London Photograph: Rui Xavier

Germans admitted they had been shaken by a postcard campaign by development charities, whose supporters have been writing to Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, urging the Germans to be less intransigent in their opposition to help for heavily indebted poor countries.

At this weekend's meeting, Italy and Japan, which normally

issue, went along with the UK's desire to make a fresh commitment to further progress before the year 2000.

Mr Brown announced that the finance ministers, who are holding a series of meetings during the next few months, would report back to the G7 leaders at the full summit in Birmingham in May. As part of this "Birmingham Process", the Chancellor is likely to tour the affected Asian countries this spring.

the feeble state of the Japanese economy, on which the whole Asian recovery will depend, the ministers stuck to their view that the spillover to their own countries would be "manageable". There was a welcome for the statement by export credit agencies at the

about \$15bn (£9bn) last year. Despite the concern about

The G7 agreed an action plan for preventing future crises. The key points were improved supervision of the international financial markets, an emphasis on better disclosure of economic data, and a strengthening of financial systems.

dard's share price rose 45.5p to weekend that export credit 764.5p. guarantees to the region, worth The City rumour mill was would be sustained in 1998.

further excited by talk that Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the Malaysian millionaire, may be about to sell his 15 per cent stake in Standard which he bought in 1986 - as one of three "white knights" who helped to rebuff a bid from Lloyds Bank. It is understood that if Tan Sir Khoo does intend to sell, he has not informed Standard of his in-

tention so far.

Barclays

deny talk

rumours

STANDARD Chartered shares

are set to soar again this week

following the failure yesterday

of Barclays Bank to deny week-

end press reports that it had

held merger talks with the in-

Taylor, chief executive of Bar-

clays, had dinner with Malcolm

Williamson, his opposite num-

ber at Standard Chartered, two

weeks ago, at which the possi-

bility of a merger was suggested

by Mr Taylor. Mr Williamson

promised to mention it to his

board. When the story hit the

dealing rooms last Friday Stan-

It is understood that Martin

By John Willcock

ternational bank

fails to

A spokeswoman for Bardays said yesterday reports of talks with Standard were "market speculation. There's an awful lot of speculation in the banking sector at the moment. As a pol-

A spokesman for Standard Chartered said: "We don't comment on market speculation. We're not in discussions with anyone."

Standard has become the subject of bid talk not least because its share price was savaged late last year by the Asian financial crisis. Ironically, that share dive helped to scare off Deutsche Bank, which had been considering a link with Standard. The crisis halved Standard's share price, which bottomed out at just over 540p this January.

Mr Taylor's comments at Barclays' results briefing last week were interpreted in the City as distancing the bank from earlier attempts to merge with NatWest. In particular, 5 Mr Taylor said that he "expected consolidation in the banking sector internationally in the next few years", a remark which observers seized on as suggesting that a link with Standard may be on the cards.

Standard's market capitalisation stands at £7.6bn, suggesting any bid would have to be for well over £8bn, according to analysts.

Privately, Barclays is irritated it the City's perception that it has to do a deal, in some form or another, following its retreat from investment banking and the sale of most of BZW.

### Texas set to trump Pacificorp offer for Energy this week

By Clifford German

TEXAS Utilities is expected to bid 800p a share this week for Energy Group, formerly Hanson's energy division, in a lastminute bid to trump the existing 765p a share offer from another US group, Pacificorp.

Pacificorp's bid was given the green light earlier this month by regulators both in the US and UK.

In practice, analysts say Texas has until 9 March, the first closing date for the Pacificorp offer in the US, to make a rival offer or see Pacificorp start winning approval by default. Texas last week secured permission to bid from the Texas Public Utility Commission.

Texas has also lined up the sale of Peabody, Energy's US coal-mining business, to Lehman Merchant, the development capital arm of its financial advisers Lehman Brothers. Texas wants to make the \$1.6bn (£970m) sale in order both to help finance the offer and also to avoid referral to the US Federal Trade Commission, and the delays that would cause.

If Texas puts an offer on the table for Energy in the next 10 days it could be followed by an offer document within a week.

according to City sources, and the deal could go through in the next two to three months.

Texas has studied the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which last year cleared Pacificorp to bid for Energy, and will frame its own bid to meet those criteria. Advisers to Texas admit, however, that any decision to refer its bid to the MMC would be fatal: the French chemicals giant. shareholders in Energy would be | Chief executive David Gilbertunlikely to wait six months to win son, finance director Peter the approval of the MMC in the hope of securing an extra 5 per cent from Texas.

Texas rejects rival claims that it would be unable to raise the \$6.75bn cash needed to finance a counter-bid without a massive rights issue. It argues that it is a bigger and financially stronger company than Pacificorp and that it could quickly raise the bank finance to mount a bid and

replace it later with equity. Texas has also indicated it would want Energy's chief executive, John Devaney, and finance director, Eric Anstee, to stay after a takeover. Pacificorp had offered Mr Devaney the post of chief operating officer

of the combined group. Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers are advising Texas on its proposed bid.

## Directors to share £10m from 'Lloyd's List' float

By Peter Thai Larsen

FOUR DIRECTORS of LLP Group, the information company which publishes Lloyd's List and Insurance Day, will share more than £10m when the company floats on the Stock Exchange in the spring. Four executive directors

control 10 per cent of the company, which is likely to be priced between £120m-£130m. They include Stuart Wallis, who was chief executive of drug group Fisons when it was taken over by Rhône Poulenc, Lindsay-Smith will also share in the bonanza.

LLP's management bought the company from Lloyd's, the insurance market, for £82.5m in

December 1995 with backing analysis. The company has four from venture capitalists 3i. At the time, they are thought to have fought off rival bids from publishing groups including Reed Elsevier.

Another 15 per cent of the share capital is divided between the employees. Almost two-thirds of the company's 540 staff have either shares or options in the company. Mr Wallis said the company

needed a stock market listing to allow its backers to realise some of their investment, and to give its employee shareholders a market for their shares. The company is also planning to expand into new Miller and deputy chairman Ian products and titles, though it has not yet decided how much new money it plans to raise.

LLP has three divisions: news and commercial, reference and professional and data

offices in the UK and another four overseas, serving over 75,000 in 180 countries. In the year to last December, the company made an operating profit of £10.3m on turnover of

Its flagship publication. Lloyd's List, was first published in 1734. However, the company has used the brand to launch a whole host of related publications, as well as books, directories, a conference programme and a range of corporate gifts. No final date has been set

for the flotation, though Mr Wallis said the company would was out of the way. He said the company had grown quite quickly, making several acquisitions in the two years since the



chief executive, intend to float the group this spring

## New markets expose business travellers to rising risks

By JohnWilicock

BRITISH business travellers are venturing to some of the most dangerous places on Earth, risking car jacking, mugging and poisoning, as UK trade grows sharply in some of the world's most unsafe countries.

A business travel insurance company ETI has surveyed a number of countries where trade

with Britain has risen dramatically between 1992-1996, and paints a blood-curdling picture.

Albania, the Congo and Brazil are among the top 10 countries where trade links have boomed. They are also among the most dangerous places in the world for travellers, according to ETI.

UK exports to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia grew in 1992-6 by well over 800 per cent - in Lithuania's case by 1.272 per cent. Their "ETI Ratings". where 1 is "very low risk" and 10 "very high risk", range from 5 for Estonia, to 6 for Latvia and 7 for Lithuania. The latter's main problems are "mugging. drugging and pickpocketing".

Meanwhile, Albania has grown fourth-fastest in export

according to ETI.

terms, and scores 10 for danger, with armed gangs and car jackings a common threat, according to the research. The Congo, seventh in the

export league, scores 9, while Brazil at tenth scores 8.

ETI tells the story of a businessman who recently went to Moscow. He hired a tax from Moscow airport to his hotel. During the trip the taxi was

pulled over by another car, and two men came out of the other car, took his wallet and briefcase and beat him up.

"The next day ETI arranged for the money to be transferred to him through the Western Union. When the client picked up the money at the bank, he had only walked 100 meters down the street when he was mugged again."

## Utilities braced as Government plans new tax on 'excess' profits

By Michael Harrison

THE GOVERNMENT will next month set out proposals to tax the "excess" profits of the privatised water, electricity, gas and telecoms companies as part of a radical overhaul of utility regulation.

The proposals will be contained in a Green Paper from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which had been due to be published this Thursday. However, publication has been

delayed until mid March because of a Whitehall battle between the DTI and the Treasury, which is under-

stood to want to link the Green Paper proposals to a fresh deal to preserve the British coal industry.

The Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson, brokered an agreement before Christmas giving the country's biggest coal producer, RJB Mining, a three-month stay of execution after contracts with the electricity industry expire in April.

He is keen to put together a long-term deal involving the generators and electricity supply companies in order to avert up to eight pit closures and the loss of 5,000 jobs at RJB.

The proposal to tax the excess profits of the utilities is sure to prove controversial. The industries involved were given to believe that the Government had dealt with the matter with the windfall tax. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, raised £5.3bn through the levy in his first Budget last July.

It is not clear how much detail the Green Paper will contain on what constitutes "excess" profit, how it would be taxed and what proportion shareholders might be allowed to retain. The proposal, if implemented, would also herald a sea-change to the existing regulatory regime. Under present arrangements, prices are capped, not Electricity Association warned: "We

profits. The price caps imply an allowed rate of return for each industry but if individual companies can do better that then they are free to retain the extra profit earned.

Whitehall insiders believe that they can overcome industry opposition to the move by arguing that it will provide regulatory certainty. "Companies are aware that at some point in the future excess profits could accrue. By setting up a mechanism for dealing with that, it reduces regulatory risk for the utilities," one adviser said.

However, a spokesman for the profits.

excess profits has been settled once and for all. A line was drawn under this with the windfall tax and we would vigorously oppose any such proposal."

The regional electricity companies also question whether there will be any scope to extract excess profits from customers once the supply market is thrown open to competition. According to one estimate, each domestic customer signed up outside REC's franchise market will contribute just £5 a year extra to

The Energy Minister, John

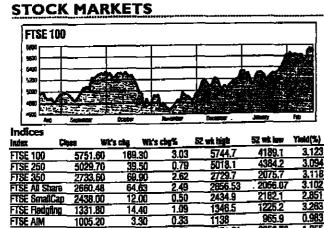
are absolutely clear that the issue of Battle, has instituted a review of energy policy which will include an examination of the balance of fuel sources for electricity generation. But he is thought to be anxious not to embroil the proposals on utility regulation with any measures to underpin one sector of the market such as the coal industry.

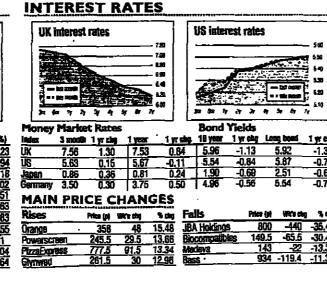
Other DTI sources point out that if would be unrealistic for Mr Robinson to use the Green Paper as a bargaining chip to secure a deal for the coal industry since the paper will need to be approved by the full Cabinet and signed off by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

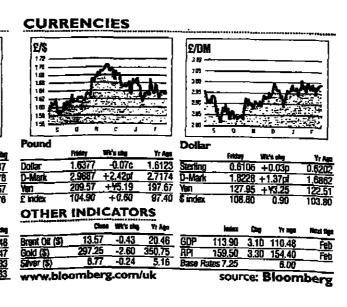
The DTI paper will also address the need for the regulatory system to protect poor and socially disadvantaged customers.

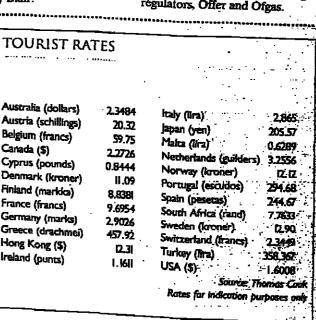
Although it has been reported that the Treasury is opposed to the idea of a £100m levy, raised from electricity companies and their customers, to help poorer consumers, Whitehall sources insisted the paper would include measures to tackle the issue.

Other proposals will include splitting the RECs' supply arms from their distribution businesses and merging the electricity and gas regulators, Offer and Ofgas.









Barclays fails to

IGO

## ANDREW The need to keep fiscal reforms simple

THE TAX system is a mess. Not just in Britain, but in most countries. The road to this mess was paved with good intentions. But what we see is massive and evergrowing tax legislation; apparently similar activities being taxed in different ways: distortion of consumption, investment, saving, working and retiring; unfairness, and tax avoidance.

The natural response is simply to change the system. A new piece of anti-avoidance legislation here, a new tax relief to encourage the thing we really want more of there. Lobby groups will call for the changes and it seems so easy. After all, tax systems are sets of rules, so when we change them, individuals and companies have to re-Spond.

The rules do have to be obeyed, but that doesn't mean we achieve the outcome we want. If we give a tax subsidy for corporate research and development (R&D) spending, we will see more R&D spending in company accounts, but much of it may simply be a redefinition of activities that are happening anyway. If we seek to encourage investment by giving new tax reliefs for one way of financing investment (say, by raising equity) we will see a shift in financing from debt to equity rather than necessarily any more total investment. If we seek to encourage investment by a temporary increase in investment allowances (as in the early 1990s), we will see investment that was going to happen anyway packed into the period of temporary allowances, with low investment either side.

Once all the relabelling, refinancing, and rescheduling has occurred, and much of the cost has also gone to those who were already doing whatever is to be encouraged, there may be some genuine change in real behaviour which meets the true objectives of the reform.

None of this should be taken to imply that the tax system now is perfect and shouldn't be changed. What we have now is unfair, inefficient and massively complex and distortionary. But responding by piecemeal change without an absolutely clear underlying strategy risks simply making things worse. And before any change is made it is vital to consider all the ways in which it won't work, will be abused, diverted and distorted. Because, however good the intentions of policymakers, many taxpayers will seek to find the best ways of legitimately minimis-

ing their tax liabilities. We can see these problems spectacularly in the field of the taxation of savings. Early in their period of office, the last Conservative government felt that more funding for risky small companies would be desirable, so they introduced a tax relief called the business expansion scheme (BES). The BES eventually grew rapidly, but ways were found of using the scheme to invest in highly non-risky assets such as fine wine and property. By the close of the scheme, universities were using BES to finance student accommodation. The BES was eventually abolished.

Schemes aimed at the other end of the savings market have had similarly che(PEPs) were introduced in 1987 aimed at encouraging direct equity investment. Very little happened until the government relented and allowed individuals to hold unit trusts in PEPs. Tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) were introduced with the aim of encouraging those on lower incomes to save. Being on a low income will typically mean that you can't afford to save at all, let alone put money away for the five-year minimum holding of a Tessa. Little wonder that only 3 per cent of the poorest 20 per cent of the population has a Tessa, and that most of the money that went into Tessas seemed simply to come from pre-existing saving rather than

be new in any way. And these schemes can appear to be successful as Tessas did, although probably producing little new saving. The best example was perhaps personal pensions. When these were introduced, the government thought that an extra tax incentive would be necessary to encourage people, although still expecting a maximum of half a million takers in the first year. Five million individuals took out personal pensions in the first year, taking the large incentive payment on offer, and only a third saved any money of their own. The cost to the government was some £9bn, a quarter of the annual NHS budget.

What does the taxation of saving look like now? We have the enterprise investment scheme, occupational pensions and personal pensions, PEPs, Tessas. National Savings. direct holding of shares, and interest-bearing

quered experience. Personal equity plans accounts. All these have different tax treatments, and are listed in rough order of gen-

erosity of tax treatment. And yet saving is above all something where we would not want the tax system to be determining choices. We save because we want to be able to consume in the future. So we care little about the vehicle in which we save, except about the rate of return we expect, the risk and how accessible it is. Different tax treatments will have an enormous impact on how we save. But we would want the choice of savings vehicles to be determined by the underlying invesiments, not the tax regime. So, rather than the variation we see in tax treatment, we would be better off with a uniform tax

Perhaps surprisingly, we have moved some way towards that in recent years, but could move further. If the tax-free lump sum in pension taxation were removed, and the remainder of Miras taken away, these two assets, which form the great bulk of personal wealth and saving, would be taxed much as Tessas and PEPs are now. The large remaining distortion would then be the continued taxation of interest income.

Taxing interest income is economically inefficient when we do not tax the return to saving in pensions, housing, or equity held in PEPs. It also penalises those on low incomes, who if they save at all, tend to save in interest-bearing assets. So the Individual Savings Account (ISA) fits well into a coherent strategy for taxing saving, and is generally welcome. Tessas were not attractive to those on low incomes because of the fiveyear lock in, and ISAs should avoid that. But the initial proposal for ISAs sought

to pay for tax deductibility of interest income by imposing limits on the lifetime level of contribution to ISAs and what could be brought over from Tessas and PEPs. Aside from administrative and compliance problems (which could be substantial), this falls into the trap of not taking seriously enough how individuals would respond. The idea that those with more than £50,000 in a PEP would leave the excess hanging around waiting for the taxman when they had the option of enterprise investment schemes, venture capital trusts, additional voluntarily contributions to pension schemes, or buying a larger house, to say nothing of more adventurous tax planning, is almost funny.

If the ISA proposal is amended coherently during the consultation period, the final scheme will be welcome. Even then, ISAs are unlikely to increase aggregate savings much, or to encourage many on low incomes to save for the first time. But they would have the merit of fitting into a sensible aim, equal taxation of all form of savings. It is these general aims we need to be clear about, rather than frenzied production of impressive sounding schemes that add complexity and distortion while achieving little. The test for the March 17 Budget is how coherent it will seem in five years, not how impressive it sounds on the evening of Budget Day.

Andrew Dilnot is the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

#### CBI offers strategies to beat millennium bug chaos

By Clifford German

DILNOT

ON THE

TROUBLE

PIECEMEAL

**CHANGES TO** 

TAX SYSTEMS

WITH

SUPERMARKET cash tills may not work, car-park barriers could get stuck, accounting programmes could add up to 100 years extra interest to bank accounts, traffic lights may fail and time locks and security devices may block access if computers are not fully prepared for the start of the new century, Peter Agar, the deputy-directorgeneral of the CBI will warn business today.

Just one unprepared company in a supermarket supply chain could mean the food not reaching the shelves on time. said Mr Agar.

will affect all companies, but there are common solutions to the problem and companies can learn from one another. To stimulate companies to act now the CBI has produced a brief which outlines what four lead-

ing UK companies, Sainsbury, Rover, GRE and Yorkshire Electricity, have done to get ready for the year 2000.

Robin Guenier, the former chief executive of the Government's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency. and now executive director of Taskforce 2000, is calling on the Government to use its position as President of the European Union to for a postponement of monetary union. "It is increasingly obvious that inadequate time and resources are making it impossible to deal with EMU and year 2000 computer projects at the same time," he said.

Martin Krajewski, chief executive of the Blomfield Group and a member of the City's Millennium Forum, also wants EMU delayed. But City economists polled by The Independent last week were virtually unanimous that the point of no return has already been passed.

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#### **Barclays forecasts further rate rises**

By Clifford German

UK interest rates may still have to rise in order to keep inflation on target, according to Chris Wright, the economics director at Barclays Bank.

Underlying inflation fell to 2.5 per cent in January, in line with the Government's target, but the current low level was due largely to the strength of

sterling, which was holding down the cost of imported goods and raw materials, said

"Domestically generated inflation is above the target level and shows little if any sign of slowing," Mr Wright argues in the latest issue of the Bank's quarterly economic review. "In particular, the pace of wage increases is rising, and looks set

to climb further unless domestic demand slows sharply."

Output grew by 3.3 per cent last year, unemployment fell, inflation was broadly stable and the current account moved into surplus for the first time since 1985. But manufacturing output declined in the fourth quarter with exporters worst affected, but the domestic economy prospered and wage

settlements rose. "This contrast is likely to become increasingly stark in the first half of this year," he writes.

There is no obvious case for adjusting the tax balance in the Budget, Mr Wright says. But the bank expects growth to slow to 2.5 per cent this year and 1.3 per cent in 1999, while the current account shows a £60n deficit this year and £7bn next.

#### sidered to be easy to administer and manage, and provide value for money, according to the participants. Pound hammers engineers

Financial services' bonuses

fail to reward performance

BONUSES paid in the financial services sector do not op-

erate in the way they are meant to, according to a survey by

an employee benefits consultancy published this week. Less

than half of the companies in the survey linked performance

to reward. William M Mercer also found bonus payments are

expected to continue to increase over the next two years by

more than half of those firms questioned. Nearly 80 per cent

of firms said that they offer at least one bonus opportunity

to all their employees, while 85 per cent of schemes were con-

BRITAIN'S engineering industry is likely to suffer from the strength of sterling even more than manufacturing industry as a whole, according to a report from the Foundation for Manufacturing and Industry today. Exports account for 75 per cent of engineering sales compared with 43 per cent for manufacturing, according to the FMI economist Jane Croot.

#### Warning on MBOs succes

MANAGEMENT buyouts are not always successful, according to a report "MBOs - No Guaranteed Riches" by the Warwick Business School and accountants Ernst & Young, published today. "It is only after the deal that the different agendas of the principal participants can start to pull in different directions," says Alan Bloom, head of E&Y's corporate recovery practice.

#### Siemens wins £180m gas-turbine contract in Scotland

By John Willcock

SIEMENS AG, Germany's largest electronics and engineering company, said its in the summer of 2000, will manufacture, erect, integrate KWU energy unit has won the contract to install new gas turbines at Peterhead Power Station, the Scottish steam power plant owned by Hydro-Electric.

Sigmens said the contract to increase efficiency and cut pol-

lution is worth £170-£180m. Work will start in late spring. Siemens said the new equipment, set to go into operation and environmentally friendly.

The project will cut emissions of noxious gases such as NO by 85 per cent, and CO2 by 50 per cent, and increase the station's efficiency by 50, Hydro-Electric said. Siemens said its main con-

struction contract is to design, make the plant, north of the city and set to work the new plant of Aberdeen, more efficient at Peterhead, and the total cost of the project will be £220m.

> The German engineering giant said the order is its seventh-largest for a power plant

in Britain since the opening up of the UK electricity market to competition in the beginning of the 1990s.

Dr James Martin, director

of generation at Hydro-Electric, said: "The project represents the first re-powering of a major power station in the UK, although the technology has been individually proven in Europe and the US.

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## Financials head a queue of heavyweight results

WEEK AHEAD



HEAVYWEIGHTS jostle to should between them have building societies and Norwich bankers' feast. £12bn in their corporate Union, the insurer. They rebacks should enliven the proceedings.

Financials, which now represent approaching 30 per support. cent of Footsie, are due to make by far the biggest groups have been deeply in-

Their dominance is not surprising. The bank profit season is still in progress and tries. HSBC, the giant ininsurers are getting up steam. ternational banking group, As if to prove there are other has been tantalisingly linked industries beside money, en- with a plethora of groups. ergy and minerals also grace

There is no indication whether the powerful array of financial profits will be ac- stituents when it announces companied by any corporate year's figures today. About developments. Talk of bids £5.1bn, up from £4.5bn, is exshares hit new peaks and crisis has not had too much immade a major contribution to pact, although a big bad-debt Footsie's record-breaking run. provision hovers. Asia, how-

All the reporting money volved in the swirling speculation which has engulfed the banking and insurance indus-

The owner of Midland Bank will account for a major part of the combined profits of the reporting Footsie conpected, indicating the Asian

offer their profits this week. A to increase their involvement shares, ensuring they have times, it has been linked with merger talks. There is also a emerge on the insurance misdozen Footsie constituents to adjust to the arrival of four missed what has truly been a the likes of the Pru and

For National Westminster lockers; dividend increases main underweight in the Bank, final figures tomorrow, surers who took up the bid and perhaps more share buy- former mutuals and their con- its been a tranmatic year. Its running, Purely coincidentally tinuing need to be strongly unsuccessful venture into inrepresented on their share vestment banking has left its registers should at least offer image a little battered. The have results on display on yearly results, likely to be a shade lower at just over £1.1bn, will do little to restore

its reputation. Abbey National, the first of the building societies to escape their mutual heritage, will have a happier tale to relate on Thursday. Profits should be up from

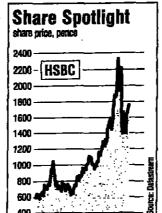
£1.169bn to £1.4bn, demonstrating the remarkable progress made since it pioneered the switch from building society to bank with its 1989 flotation.

Abbey is now a rounded financial group and intends to become even more broadly based. Its ambitions have not been lost on the stock market

Institutions have also had ever, has devastated the rumour mill and, in recent CU and GRE are holding

Nat West. Last week it was the inthree of them - Commercial Union, GRE and Pru - will Wednesday.

The latest hot story is that



long-simmering theory that Barclays and Lloyds TSB are issue only weeks ago, it is now keen to barge in among the quoted insurers. With foreign bidders also thought to lurk, cases. it is unlikely the once sedate world of insurance will be able to throw off the speculation which has driven shares to new neaks.

expected to record lower life assurance industry. yearly figures. Fire damage, storms and the strong pound will impact on CU, likely to announce profits around £420m against £444m. It is HSBC, its shares are a casuexpected that GRE's underwriting losses have increased as its investment income has fallen. Profits could be

£185m, off nearly £100m. The Pru should have scored from the growth in life profits, although the sale of Mercantile & General and the acquisition of Scottish Amicable may blur the re-

It is unlikely that much will selling front. A highly charged fading as more companies move to clear their backlog of

The figures, expected to be £900m against £873m, may also be distorted by the switch to "achieved profits" ac-

Standard Chartered, also likely to notch lower profits -£855m against £870m. Like alty of the Asian crisis.

Alliance & Leicester, the former building society now £785m. known as a mortgage bank, is due to make profits of £400m, up from £306m, on Friday.

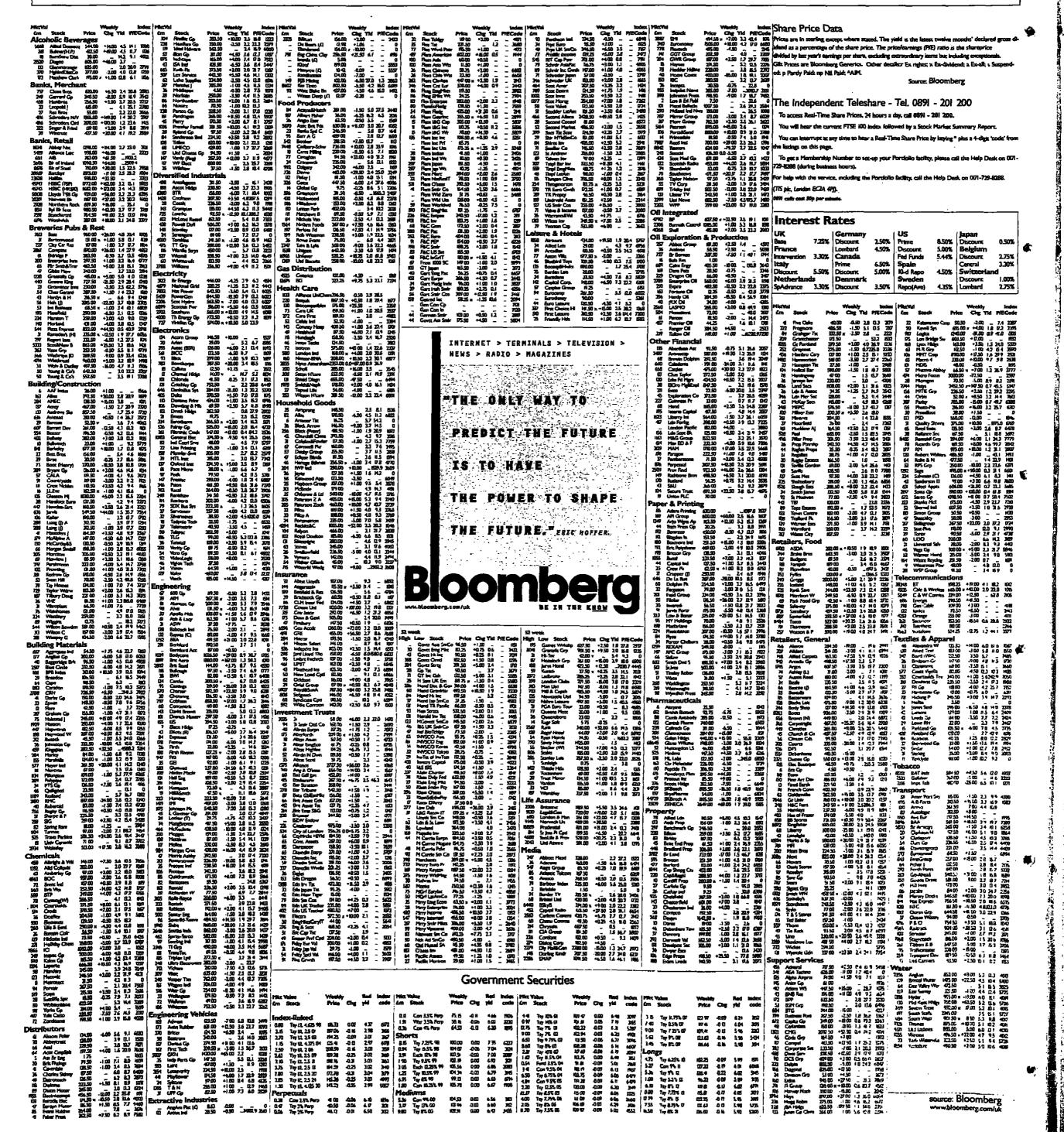
BG, the old British Gas, may on Wednesday produce details of a further share buy-£1.3bn affair. Net income will £31.7m.

with fourth-quarter results hit by weak oil prices and warm

Centrica, the gas supplier . split from BG a year ago, will report operating profits of around £100m but exceptionals could leave it up to £400m in the red.

The Lasmo oil group is also counting which brought the seen as being hit by the de-CU and GRE are Pro in line with the rest of the clining oil price as well as suffering from flat production. It should on Thursday report on Wednesday, is another net income of some £50m. down from £67m. Mining group RioTinto is a casualty of the fall in metal prices, although profits on the same day will be up some £85m to

> Two of the bigger non-Footsie stocks on this week's list include Smith & Nephew, the health group expected to report £160m (£182.2m) on Thursday and builder George Wimpey, which on Tuesday is back, following last year's due to announce £55m against



The panel has set up three working parties, the first of which will gather informa-

# Time to take fraud seriously

Accountants are leading the way in dealing with white-collar crime, writes George Staple

TWO important recommendations of the Roskill Committee on Fraud Trials, which sat in the mid-Eighties, did not find a place in the legislation that followed. One urged that juries should no longer try cases of serious and complex fraud, and the other that a commission should be set up to monitor the system for detecting, investigating and prosecuting fraud.

The first has received much attention over the years since Roskill, culminating last week in a consultation paper from the Home Office. The idea of a fraud commission has, however, gone largely unno-

ticed. Such a body, which Roskill proposed should exist within the machinery of government but with outside members, would contribute to the reputation of financial markets, and would study and advise on the efficiency of the way fraud cases were dealt with in the UK. In particular it would keep an eye on cost effectiveness and the time that cases were taking. It would inquire into breakdowns in the system and assess the possibility of improvements by change of policy and procedure or the introduction of more efficient techniques. It would provide a degree of co-ordination between the numerous interests involved and publish an annual report.

It is a pity that the idea was not pursued. Quangos have not been popular since Lady Thatcher was prime minister, but if some of the controversial cases of recent years had come under the spotlight of a fraud commission, much public misunderstanding of the way in which the system was working might have been avoided. So the



The Guinness case renewed fears about the use of juries in complex fraud trials

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

initiative of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in setting up the Fraud Advisory Panel is a welcome step in this direction. Indeed in some respects it will go further

than Roskill's proposal for a commission. The Institute has recognised that there is a shortage of reliable information about the extent and nature of fraud. A much more detailed picture of the overall problem is

needed. Only then will it be possible to see where resources should be targeted.

The shortage of information is partly due to businesses which fall victim to fraud not reporting it. To do so can disclose failures in management systems and indeed can sometimes reduce the chances of recovering the money. But it is also partly due to the fragmentation of the system for dealing resented on the new Fraud Advisory Panel. the head of the Serious Fraud Office.

with fraud. In addition to the police and the financial regulators, who are responsible for investigating fraud, no fewer than eight govemment departments are responsible for investigating and prosecuting fraud. Some of these, together with the police, banks, the legal and accountancy professions, academics and some major companies are rep-

tion on fraud. The second will be concerned with raising awareness of the problem, investigating methods of prevention and providing advice to business. The third will look at the effectiveness of existing methods of investigation and prosecution. More than 50 different organisations concerned with fraud are represented. We are approaching the point in the economic cycle when, if history is anything to

go by, business failures increase. That is when fraud has tended to occur, or at least become apparent. Shareholders will expect that companies have learnt the lessons of recent years and that improved management systems are in place to prevent fraud.

Successive governments have encouraged ordinary families to invest their savings in the equity markets and make personal provision for the pensions. Since it came into office, the Government has devoted considerable attention to financial regulation, which of course exists to prevent fraud and protect the integrity of markets. However, a number of ministerial statements, in particular from the Solicitor General, Lord Falconer, in his Denning Lecture last October, have indicated that the Government is no less concerned about the law relating to the investigation and prosecution of fraud and related offences. This is very much to be welcomed, and is a reflection of the fact that not only are shareholders entitled as a matter of good corporate governance to expect that businesses include within their management systems effective fraud controls, but also that the criminal justice system is as effective as we can possibly make it to deal with fraud.

The author is a partner at international law firm Clifford Chance, where he heads the Firm's Fraud Investigation Unit, and chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accounuants' fraud advisory panel. He was formerly

## Thinking of shopping the boss but don't want to lose your job? Help is at hand

MOST employees will think ing its progress through Partwice about bringing their bosses to book if they detect come the legitimate fears of some serious malpractice at work. There are few benefits in blowing the whistle for the dutiful employee. Often the most obvious consequence is dismissal. Employment contracts are frequently drawn up so that an employee must respect a duty of confidentiality to his or her employer. A new Bill currently mak-

The proposed legislation.

liament, is designed to overemployees and to encourage them to report serious maloractice. Although the Public Interest Disclosure Bill is sponsored by an Opposition backbencher, it has the support of the Government and is likely to become law by the summer.

unofficially dubbed the Whistle-blowing Bill, seeks to

protect workers from recriminations from employers if, when acting in good faith and in the public interest, they report actual or suspected wrongdoing. It will apply to most individual employees, including agency workers and self-employed professionals (such as accountants), voluntary workers, the police and the armed forces

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For disclosures to be pro-

tected, the worker making them would need to have a "reasonable belief" that some crime or miscarriage of justice had taken place or was likely to take place, or that some legal obligation had been or was likely to be infringed. Dishomeworkers, though not to closures would also be protected if the worker had a reasonable belief that information relating to these matters was likely to be deliberately concealed. The range

of disclosures which would afford the worker protection under the Bill are referred to as "qualifying disclosures".

The Bill is framed to encourage employees who have "qualifying disclosures" to first approach their employer. In order to be protected when making a "qualifying disclosure" to one's employer, the employee would only need to act in good faith. In order to be protected when disclosing to a third party, the worker would have to meet additional criteria. In cases of what the Bill

First, he would need to satisfy a higher test of belief that his information was accurate and not motivated by personal gain. Second, he would be expected to have first raised his concerns with his em-The protection which the ployer, although this would not always be necessary where the worker had good reason to believe that such action would

lead to victimisation or to the

destruction of evidence.

calls "exceptionally serious failure", which could mean cases of major fraud or a very serious threat to health and safety, the worker can report externally straight away.

new law would provide to whistle-blowers is twofold. Where a worker is victimised but not dismissed, he will be entitled to receive compensa-

tion assessed in the light of the circumstances of the case. The consequences in the case of dismissal are currently less clear. But however the detail of the new law works out, any positive contribution to the means available to combat fraud will be welcome.

John Davies

The author is senior technical officer at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

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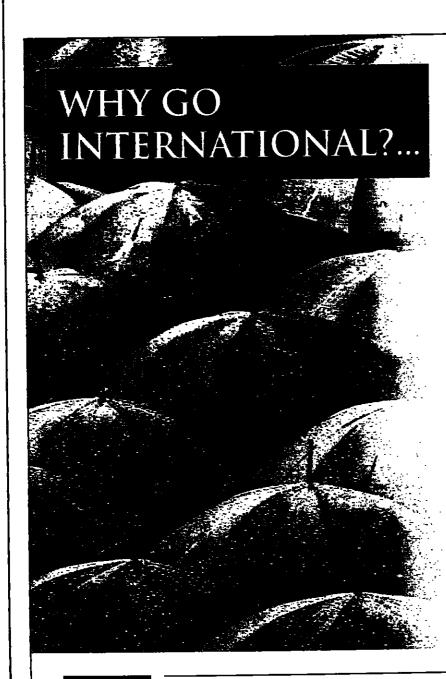
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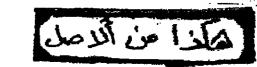
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1-2 year's PQE. Excellent firm, superb high profile work (hard IP) and well known practitioners seek an additional junior member of the team. Candidates with a strong academic record and a science background (probably to degree/post-graduate level) would have an advantage. Ref: 647 City

PROPERTY LITIGATION Newly qualified. Candidates with at least six months property litigation

experience from a reputable practice (not necessarily a large city Ref: 645 practice) would be considered. City To £48k

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL c. 3 years' PQE. Opportunity for high calibre solicitor to reduce stress without compromising on quality of work or remuneration. Sounds

sensible to us. Central London To £50k **EMPLOYMENT LAW** 1-4 year's PQE. Strong, dedicated prominent team with superb reputation for quality of advice and service seeks additional lawyers with broad employment law experience. If you are a high academic

achiever with experience from a reputable practice, you would do well to investigate this firm. City

0-2 years' PQE. Outstanding opportunity to join well-known team in a major practice. Quality of work is superb and the team is friendly and supportive. You will have experience of contentious employment matters including some litigation training. City

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CORPORATE**

NQ-2 year's PQE. Excellent opportunity for a lawyer (possibly newlyqualified with good seats in both areas of the law) with experience of both environmental and corporate law to join a leading city law firm offering a good variety of work. You will need to be flexible and able to handle the environmental aspects of large corporate transactions as well as assisting the corporate team generally. This role would suit a very high calibre lawyer with a good academic record wishing to maintain two strings to his bow. City Ref: 674

CONSTRUCTION, NON-CONTENTIOUS To £40k

1-2 years' PQE. Highly recommended opportunity representing one of a number of requirements in construction registered with us currently. City

**MARCH QUALIFIERS** 

We still have a number of vacancies within city firms.

#### IN-HOUSE SPOTLIGHT

£Exc IP and COMMERCIAL LEGAL COUNSEL

3-5 years' PQE. We are looking for high calibre lawyers with relevant commercial and IP experience to undertake a challenging role within a major multinational company. You will be keen to deal with and adapt to non-European business situations and provide a full legal support service to this Eastern European, former Soviet Union. Middle East and African focus of their operations as well as supporting the commercial legal needs of the company as a whole. You will be robust and able to maintain high professional standards and personal integrity in demanding situations. Middlesex Ref: 664

#### IT/SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

e-mail: the.lpa@virgin.net

To £55k + bens

#### IN-HOUSE BANKING

bidding stage to completion. Travel involved. City

5-10 years' PQE. Our client has opportunities for first class lawyers or

individuals with extensive contract management and negotiation

experience with energy and flexibility. With experience comprising

commercial contracts, software licensing, regulatory and ideally,

telecommunications, you would be given a front line role in the

company's substantial operations involving advice, negotiation of

agreements for joint ventures and drafting of innovative contracts. You

will be involved in the company's commercial activities from the

**EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS** 7-10 yrs PQE

Our client, one of the largest and most successful international banks, has a requirement and a substantial budget for a senior equity capital markets lawyer to join their in-house team based in the city. Further details on request. City

**DEBT/EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS** 3-5 yrs PQE

A major reputable international bank requires an additional lawyer for its cap markets team with an impressive academic record and a training from a reputable practice or high calibre in-house role. Your contribution will be required over the full range of the bank's operations, also covering emerging markets. City

RETAIL BANKING LAWYER £compet + bens

3-6 years' PQE. We are seeking applications from lawyers with experience of retail banking products to join a medium sized team of in-house lawyers. A very good quality of work within this major player makes this opportunity a serious attractions. City

LONDON, SQUARE,

AGAIN...

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**EMPLOYMENT LAW, CONTENTIOUS** 

To £36k

Ref: 661

c. £30k

For further information in complete confidence please contact Stephen Turvey or Cameron Turnbull at the address below

garage and the contract of the

# Japan bids a fiery Olympic farewell







Passing the baton: Juan Antonio Samaranch, President o the IOC, hands over the Olympic flag yesterday to Deedee Corradini, Mayor of Salt Lake City, home of the next Winter Games, as Nagano's Mayor, Tasuku Tsukada, looks on during the closing ceremony of the XVIIIth Winter Olympics in Nagano. The ceremony also featured the ride-by of a stage coach from the host city for 2002

Bathed in glory: Japanese dancers perform amidst falling fireworks during the closing ceremony at Nagano yesterday, Britain's only medal was won (below) on Saturday by Photographs: Mike Blake/Reuters, Shaun Botteriil/Allsport



#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

provides (4) Occasionally a number

stick at the same time

a heartless lady (8)

DOWN

About due to reach reef

(5) Mind not being free of

worry (4,1,4)
Possibly border on chaos

drunken US novelist (6,9)

One of many being linked with personality (8)

Runs out of foreign cur-

rency so has to return (5)

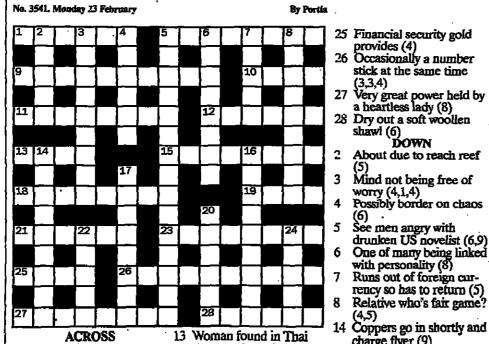
Relative who's fair game?

vision and is keeping qui-

charge flyer (9)

(6) See men angry with

Very great power held by



- 1 Work out main measure-
- ment (6) 5 African trainee is sacked
- around mid-March (8) 9 Transfer to vehicle (10) 10 Get wind of quarter re-

duction and make money

- 11 Plant splits right inside
- 12 Refuse to accommodate
- the centre party (6)
- slave-market (4) 15 Perhaps bowler's catch gets Herts town (8)
- 19 Isle sounds like heaven (4) 21 Marching home a short
- way (2,4) 23 Most like going round a
- 16 Officer's a member of di-
- et (9) 18 Second's hesitation after 17 Key reservists to take on gaining impetus (8) in an emergency (2,1,5) 20 Switch direction, circling Northern French town
  - 22 All at once express disapproval over note (5) region (4,4) 24 Wide range of view held about Welsh priest (5)

Wharf and experi-ಆಗಳ ರ ೧೮ ದ Peak. iû times a day Swissair takes you from Heathrow to the Alps. For a breathtoking view from opove. And a breathcking hike from be-

Descendition Consty

รพรรตส

Account. The costs comprise fees of £8 per month, BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month, NAT WEST als are based on the Customit Plus Account. The costs comprise fees of 25 per month, All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rate for one of \$250 to 12.6% EAR. All information based on authorized overdrafts of \$250 for 5 days or more per month and correct at 15 January 1998.

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